



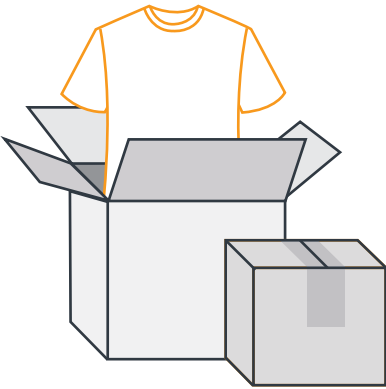
# US Ocean Container Preparation Guidelines

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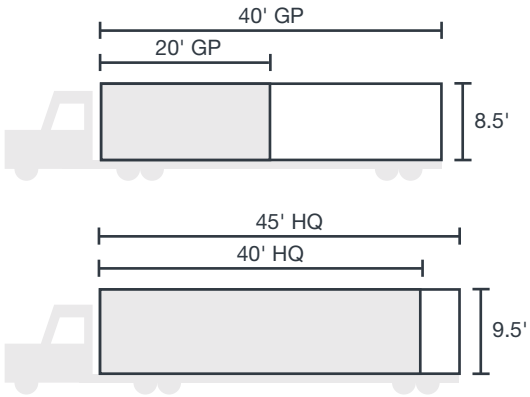
*Consistent with Amazon Fulfillment Center receiving requirements*

# Ocean Container Preparation Steps

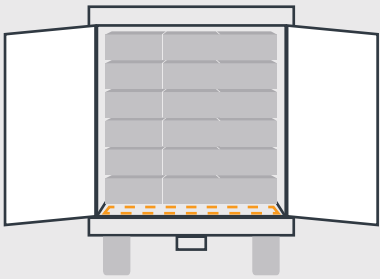
**1** Prep your products into cartons/boxes.



**2** Select your container.



**3** Choose your load type:



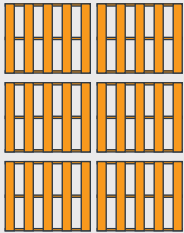
Fluid Floor Loading

or



Clamp Truck Shipment

or

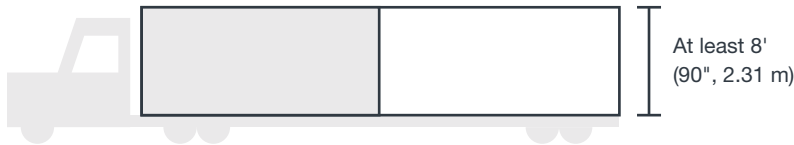


Pallet Preparation

## Before Loading

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- Use containers with an **internal height of at least 90" (2.31 m)**.
  - Standard containers sized **20 GP, 40 GP, 40 HQ, and 45 HQ** comply with Amazon receiving requirements.



- **Create shipment plans** in Seller Central and **print FBA shipment labels** before booking the shipment with the carrier.
  - For more information, see [How to Create a Shipment](#) (PDF).
- Keep the container floor **well-maintained, safe, and free** from any obstructions and damage such as holes. The vehicle floor must be able to withstand a **fully laden pallet jack**.
  - ⚠ Due to safety concerns, the use of containers with uneven or corrugated floors (such as in refrigerated containers) is not permitted.
- Follow the US Department of Transportation's (DOT) regulations regarding container axle weight and total gross weight restrictions.
  - The **maximum weight for 20 GP** containers is 37,500 lbs (17,025 kgs).
  - The **maximum weight for 40 GP/HQ** containers is 44,000 lbs (19,958 kgs).
  - The **maximum weight for 45 HQ** containers is 46,000 lbs (20,865 kgs).



## Unit Level Checklist

- Prepare product units according to [FBA Packaging and Prep Requirements](#) (sign-in required).
  - **Print your ASIN barcode labels** from Seller Central (the barcode will start with B00 or X00). Each ASIN barcode is **unique to one specific product**.
    - For example, each product variation, such as size or color, will have a different ASIN barcode. UPC barcodes are also acceptable if they correspond to the correct ASIN on Amazon.
  - Add the ASIN barcode label on the exterior of your product and make sure that it is easily scannable for **each unit**.
    - For more information, see [Label Products](#) in Seller Central Help (sign-in required).
  - **Include the expiration date** on the individual units and master carton for any products that will expire with:
    - Font size: 36+
    - Format: MM-DD-YY or MM-YYYY (Example 03-2020)

**Products that are expired or will become expired within 90 days will be destroyed.**

- The **same ASIN** within the same case or pallets must have the **same expiration date**.
- The **master carton** must also have an expiration date.



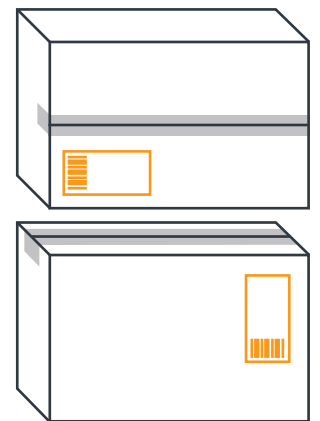
- **Prep and label** any products that **require special packaging** such as:
  - liquids
  - sharp items (like knives and cutlery)
  - fragile/glass
  - apparel/textiles
  - dangerous goods (also called HAZMAT)
  - plush products
  - small products
  - baby/adult

according to [FBA Packaging and Prep Requirements](#) (sign-in required).

# Fluid Floor Loaded Shipment Preparation

Fluid floor loaded containers contain boxes stacked from the floor of the container **without the use of pallets**.

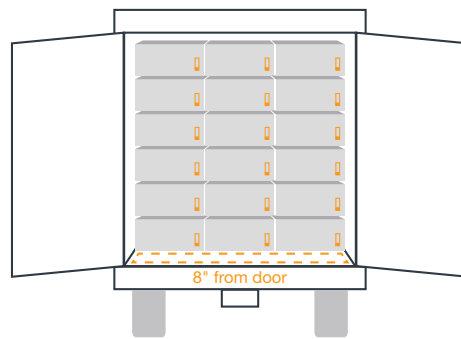
- Send only standard sized (**sortable**) ASINs in fluid floor loaded shipments.
  - Do not allow individual unit sizes to exceed 18" x 14" x 8" (45 cm x 35 cm x 20 cm) for standard size (sortable) ASINs. They must also not weigh more than 20 lbs (9 kg).
  - Place **individual units in boxes**.
    - Boxes shipped to a Sortable Fulfillment Center (standard size products) must measure **less than 25" (64 cm)** on each side.
    - Oversized products can be placed in larger boxes.
  - ⚠ If you have **oversized units**, prepare them on **pallets** (individual units over 20 lbs or 9 kg) or have them clamp truck enabled.
    - See the Palletized Load Requirements section or the Clamp Truck Shipment Guidelines section for more details.
    - For more information, see [FBA product size tiers info](#) (sign-in required).
  
- **Do not have boxes that exceed 50 lbs (23 kg)** of sortable products in a fluid floor loaded shipment.
  - Pack the same ASIN in each box and **mark the boxes as "Case Packed."**
    - If this is not possible, you can pack multiple ASINs in the same box, but we recommended **no more than 5 different ASINs** in the box.
  - Ensure you have provided a packing list that meets the FBA Packing List requirements found on Seller Central.
    - See [FBA Packing Video Tutorials](#) for details (sign-in required).
  - Load **boxes with different ASINs** inside the container by loading all the boxes related to the first ASIN, then all the boxes related to the second ASIN, and so on until the container is fully loaded.
  - Print the box label (Ship From, Ship To, PO # with barcode) from Seller Central and place the box label in an **easily visible location on the box**, not on a seam or the edge of a box.
  - **Use only large-sized dunnage**, such as air pillows, full sheets of paper, sheet foam or bubble wrap. **Do not use loose fill** of any kind, such as styrofoam, peanuts, or shredded paper.



Example of preferred top and side shipping label placement.

## Container Loading a Fluid Floor Loaded Shipment

- Stack boxes into columns. **Boxes must not be bundled together with** any kind of straps, zip ties, tape, etc.
- Maintain stability** when loading the container.
  - Use air pillows, diamond corrugate, or dunnage for stability.
  - Do not force boxes into spaces that are smaller than the box size, to prevent difficulty during the unload process.
- Allow for **at least 8" (21 cm) of clearance** from the last row of cartons to container doors to engage a dock leveler.
- Secure all shipments properly **using load bars/straps**.
  - It is the shipper's and the carrier's responsibility to ensure that shipments are loaded into a trailer in a manner that prevents the load from shifting during transit.



Fluid Floor Loading

## Container Loading a Clamp Truck Shipment

Clamp Truck Shipments are special floor loaded shipments received by both Sortable FCs (standard size products) and Non Sortable FCs (oversized products).

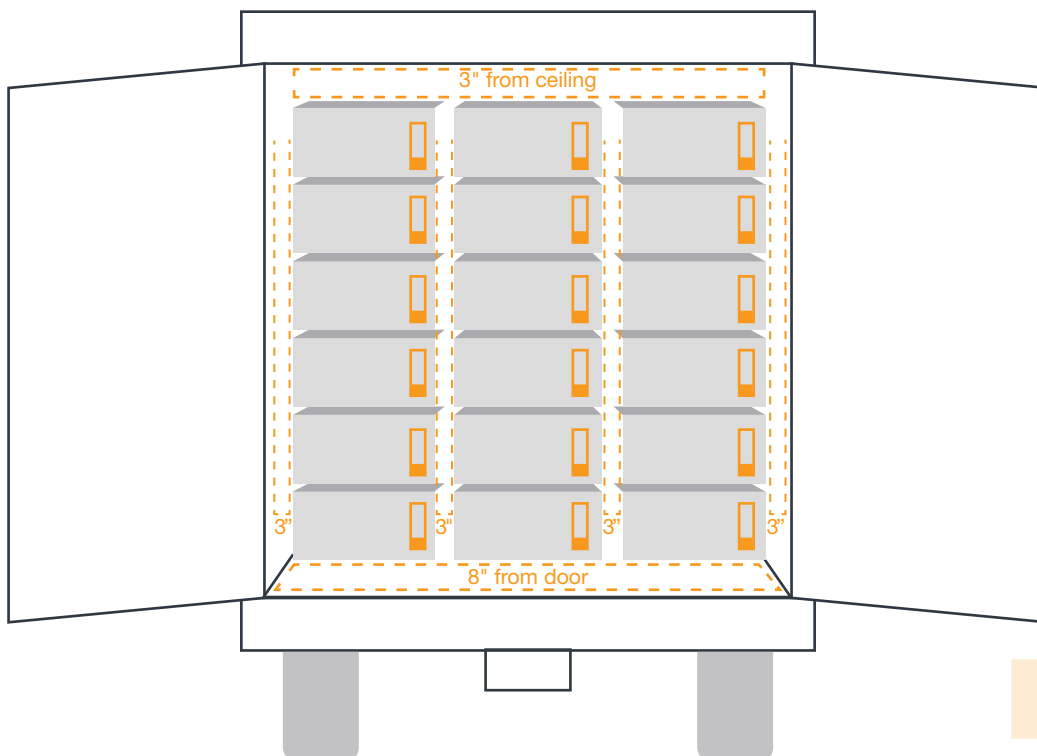
- Arrange each column tier to be uniform and aligned relative to the other tiers on the column base so that **all four sides of the freight column stack can be safely "squeezed"** by the clamp. Tier heights may vary.
- Ensure that columns are a **minimum of 24" (61 cm) wide and maximum 72" (183 cm) long** to accommodate minimum and maximum clamp truck restrictions. Column heights may vary.
- Do not exceed a column maximum clamp weight of
  - **3000 lbs (1360 kg)**, if the load is **NOT** elevated
  - **1300 lbs (590 kg)**, if the load is **elevated** (such as a double stacked load)



Clamp Truck Shipment

## Container loading a clamp truck shipment (continued)

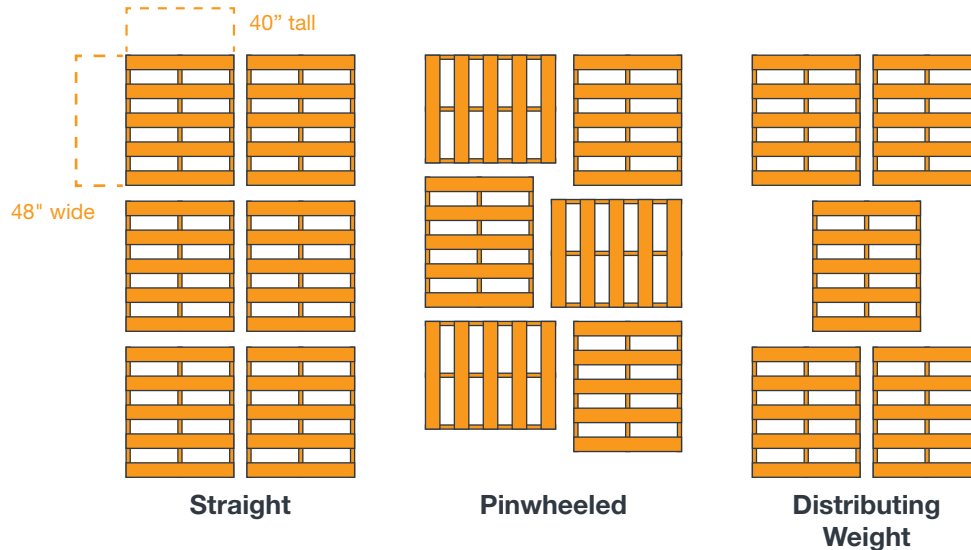
- Allow for at least **3" (8 cm) of clearance** from the top of the box stack to the container roof.
- Allow for at least **3" (8 cm) between container stacks and walls** during transit **by using air bags** to ensure stability and **non-metal straps** or a **safety net** to prevent the load from shifting or falling.
- Stack boxes into columns with **3" (8 cm) gaps between columns**, and **use airbags** to maintain load stability during transit.
- ⚠ Boxes should not be bundled together** with any kind of straps, zip ties, tape, etc. Do not leave empty spaces that can result in displacement and boxes falling when the container doors are opened.
- Allow for at least **8" (21 cm) of clearance** from the last row of cartons to container doors to engage a dock leveler.
- Secure all shipments properly using load bars/straps.
  - It is the shipper and carrier's responsibility to ensure that shipments are loaded into a trailer in a manner that prevents the load from shifting during transit.



Clampable Load

# Palletized Shipment Preparation

- Place **FBA shipment labels on each carton** in order to keep your inventory together and improve processing into the fulfillment center.
- Use 40" x 48" (1.02 m x 1.22 m), 4-way access, wood pallets. If a single, large unit cannot fit on a 40" x 48" pallet without hanging over the edges, use a pallet size and type that is suitable for the unit.



Container Loading a Full Container shipment follow one of these configurations: Straight, Pinwheeled, or Distributing Weight. Ensure the pallet is accessible by forklift without the need to turn or shift the pallets.

- Stack only one ASIN per pallet, whenever quantities allow. Label pallet "**Single ASIN Pallet**" for those pallets with only one ASIN.
- Use pallets compliant with **GMA grade B or higher, and only wood material** (lumber, plywood, composite, etc.).
  - Ship food and grocery products on GMA 1A grade pallets.
- **Stretch-wrap pallets in clear plastic.** Do not use black or opaque stretch-wrap.
- Place **shipment labels on all four sides** of the pallet on the **outside of the stretch-wrap**.



Example of a correctly stacked and stretch-wrapped pallet.  
The pallet labels must be placed on the outside of the plastic wrap.

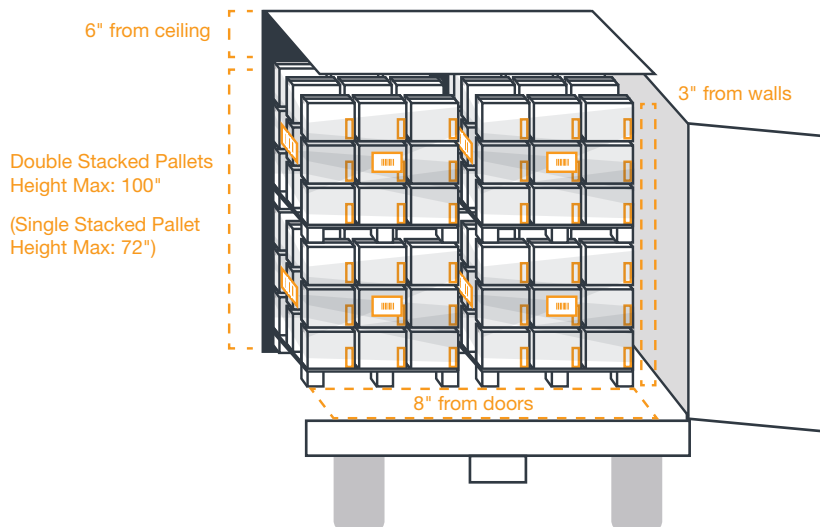


## Palletized shipment preparation (continued)

- Build pallets up to a **maximum of 72" (1.82 m) high**. Gross weight must be **less than 1,500 lbs (680 kg)**.
- Use corner boards** to help protect and maintain the stability of cartons in transit.
- Use double-stacked pallets only when they are safe to load and unload, and will not cause product damage during transit. Build **double-stacked pallets** up to a **maximum of 100" (2.54 m) high**.
- Ensure each box maximum gross weight **does not exceed 50 lbs (23 kg)** unless the single unit weighs more than 50 lbs.
  - For single heavy units **between 50 lbs (23 kg) and 100 lbs (45 kg)** attach a label that clearly indicates **"Team Lift"** to all cartons.
  - For single heavy units **above 100 lbs (45 kg)** attach a label that clearly indicates **"Mech Lift."**

## Container Loading a Palletized Shipment

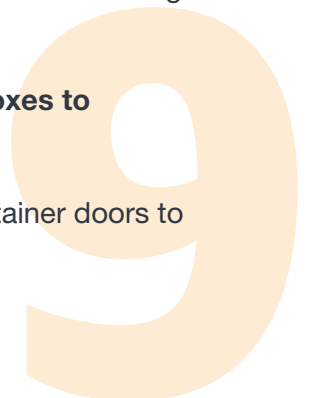
- Allow for at least **6" (15 cm) of clearance** from the top of the pallet to the container roof.



### Palletized Load

Example of palletized load correctly staged in a container.

- Allow for at least **3" (8 cm)** between container stacks and walls while in transit by using air bags to ensure stability, **non-metal straps**, or a **safety net** to prevent the load from shifting or falling.
- Stack cartons evenly and squarely from corner to corner and **do not allow boxes to overhang** from the pallet.
- Allow for at least **8" (21 cm) of clearance** from the last row of cartons to container doors to engage a dock leveler.



## Ocean Container Shipment Tips (Avoid common mistakes!)

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- Remember to **attach special labels** to **heavy products** (over 50 lbs/23 kg) and other specialty products requiring **warning labels**.
- Do not prepare fluid floor loaded shipments with cartons weighing **over 50 lbs (23 kg)**.
  - Oversized units and cartons must be palletized, unless the load is clampable. See the section **Container Loading a Clamp Truck Shipment** (page 6).
- Stack pallets with adequate space to allow for unloading.
  - Allow for at least **6" (15 cm) of space** from the top of the pallet to the container ceiling to allow for the safe unloading of pallets with a forklift.
- Stack **clampable shipments** with at least **3" (8 cm) of space** from the load to the container roof.
- Allow for at least **8" (21 cm) of clearance** from the last row of cartons to container doors to engage a dock leveler.
- Remember to secure the load with **air bags, non-metal straps, or a safety net** as freight contents can shift during transit causing damage.

**Important:** containers that are not prepared as described in these requirements may be rejected. If that happens, you will be responsible for any additional costs related to the storage, re-work, and re-delivery of the container.

For additional details and the latest information on how to ship FBA inventory, visit [Seller Central Help](#).