Shipping container sizes, explained in plain words.

Inside measurements, door sizes, space, empty weight and how much cargo each container can carry, with what it is good for and what to watch out for.

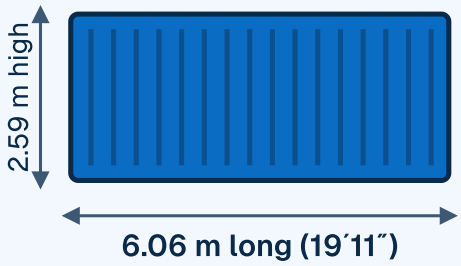
- 20′ Standard
- 40′ Standard
- 40′ High Cube
- 45′ High Cube
- 20′ Reefer
- 40′ High Cube Reefer
- 20′ Open Top
- 40′ Open Top
- 20′ Flat Rack
- 40′ Flat Rack
- 20′ ISO Tank

Not sure which container you need? WhatsApp your packing list to the YAM desk, or try the free container load calculator at www.yamlogistics.com.

Typical values. Exact tare and max gross weight are on each container's door and CSC plate. Road limits may allow less. For guidance only.

20′ Standard

20 ft dry container · 20GP · 20DV · ISO 22G1



The most common box in the world. A steel box the size of a small room, about as long as a small truck.

33.2 m³	**28.2 t**	**2.2 t**
space inside	max cargo weight	empty weight

Inside length	**5.90 m (19′4″)**
Inside width	**2.35 m (7′9″)**
Inside height	**2.39 m (7′10″)**
Door opening (w × h)	**2.34 × 2.28 m**
Total space inside	**33.2 m³ (CBM)**
Realistic cartons load	**about 25–28 m³**
Empty weight (tare)	**about 2,230 kg**
Most cargo it can carry (payload)	**about 28,250 kg**
Maximum total weight (gross)	**30,480 kg**
Pallets	**10 standard (1.2 × 1.0 m) or 11 Euro (1.2 × 0.8 m) pallets**
Outside size (l × w × h)	**6.06 × 2.44 × 2.59 m**
ISO type code	**22G1**

GOOD FOR
Heavy, compact cargo: tiles, granite, rice, sugar, metal parts, machinery, chemicals in drums or bags.

WATCH OUT
It fills up by weight before it fills up by space. Road weight limits in India and at destination may stop you from loading the full payload.

FLOOR AND WEIGHT
Floor tested for a forklift axle of 7,260 kg. Rule of thumb: keep heavy items to about 4.5 tonnes per running metre of floor.

Not sure which container you need? Ask YAM.

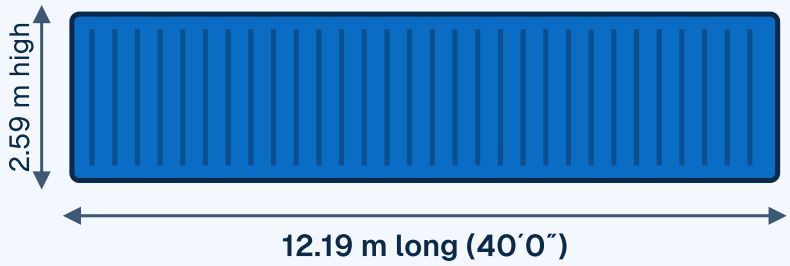
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Typical values. Exact tare and max gross weight are on each container's door and CSC plate. Road limits may allow less. For guidance only.

40′ Standard

40 ft dry container · 40GP · 40DV · ISO 42G1



Twice as long as a 20′ but it cannot carry twice the weight. Best when your cargo is bulky rather than heavy.

67.7 m³	26.7 t	3.8 t
space inside	max cargo weight	empty weight

Inside length	12.03 m (39′6″)
Inside width	2.35 m (7′9″)
Inside height	2.39 m (7′10″)
Door opening (w × h)	2.34 × 2.28 m
Total space inside	67.7 m³ (CBM)
Realistic cartons load	about 55–58 m³
Empty weight (tare)	about 3,750 kg
Most cargo it can carry (payload)	about 26,730 kg
Maximum total weight (gross)	30,480 kg
Pallets	21 standard or 25 Euro pallets
Outside size (l × w × h)	12.19 × 2.44 × 2.59 m
ISO type code	42G1

GOOD FOR
Light or medium cargo that takes up space: furniture, garments, handicrafts, cartons of consumer goods.

WATCH OUT
Same maximum weight as a 20′ (about 30.5 tonnes in total), so it can actually carry slightly less cargo by weight.

FLOOR AND WEIGHT
Floor tested for a forklift axle of 7,260 kg. Rule of thumb: about 3 tonnes per running metre. Spread heavy items along the length.

Not sure which container you need? Ask YAM.

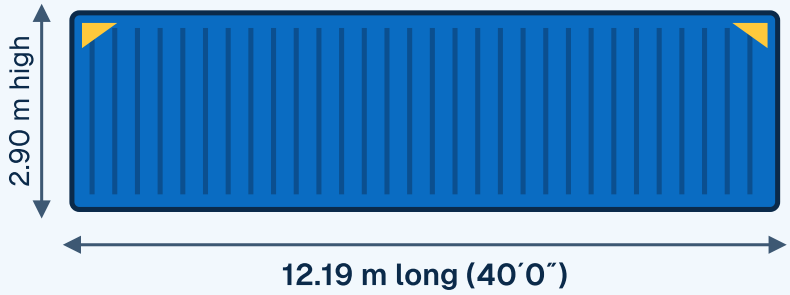
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40′ High Cube

40 ft HC · 40HQ · 40HC · ISO 45G1



A 40′ that is one foot (30 cm) taller. The extra height gives about 13% more space for the same footprint.

76.3 m³	**26.6 t**	**3.9 t**
space inside	max cargo weight	empty weight

Inside length	**12.03 m (39′6″)**
Inside width	**2.35 m (7′9″)**
Inside height	**2.70 m (8′10″)**
Door opening (w × h)	**2.34 × 2.58 m**
Total space inside	**76.3 m³ (CBM)**
Realistic cartons load	**about 65–68 m³**
Empty weight (tare)	**about 3,900 kg**
Most cargo it can carry (payload)	**about 26,580 kg**
Maximum total weight (gross)	**30,480 kg**
Pallets	**21 standard or 25 Euro pallets, with more room to stack**
Outside size (l × w × h)	**12.19 × 2.44 × 2.90 m**
ISO type code	**45G1**

GOOD FOR
Bulky, light cargo and anything tall: cotton, foam, furniture, garments on hangers, cartons stacked high.

WATCH OUT
Taller boxes can hit height limits on some roads and rail routes. Look for the yellow and black stripes that mark a high cube.

FLOOR AND WEIGHT
Floor tested for a forklift axle of 7,260 kg. Rule of thumb: about 3 tonnes per running metre.

Not sure which container you need? Ask YAM.

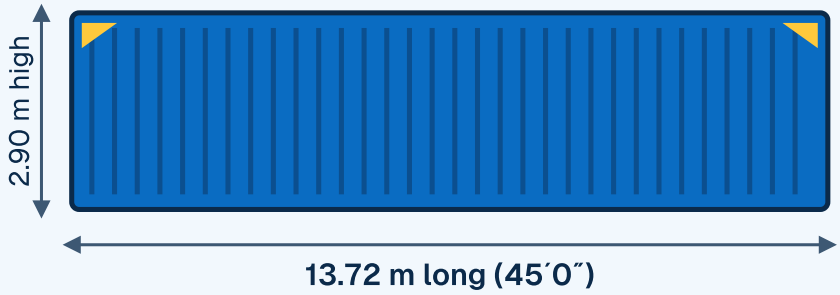
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45′ High Cube

45 ft HC · 45HC · ISO L5G1



The longest standard box, 5 feet longer than a 40′ high cube. Less common in India.

86.0 m³	25.7 t	4.8 t
space inside	max cargo weight	empty weight

Inside length	**13.56 m (44′6″)**
Inside width	**2.35 m (7′9″)**
Inside height	**2.70 m (8′10″)**
Door opening (w × h)	**2.34 × 2.58 m**
Total space inside	**86.0 m³ (CBM)**
Realistic cartons load	**about 74–78 m³**
Empty weight (tare)	**about 4,800 kg**
Most cargo it can carry (payload)	**about 25,680 kg**
Maximum total weight (gross)	**30,480 kg**
Pallets	**about 24 standard or 27 Euro pallets**
Outside size (l × w × h)	**13.72 × 2.50 × 2.90 m**
ISO type code	**L5G1**

GOOD FOR
Very light, bulky cargo where every cubic metre counts.

WATCH OUT
Not every line, port or trailer handles 45′ boxes. Ask us before planning around one.

FLOOR AND WEIGHT
Floor tested for a forklift axle of 7,260 kg. Rule of thumb: about 3 tonnes per running metre.

Not sure which container you need? Ask YAM.

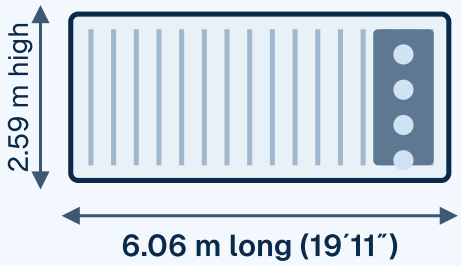
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Typical values. Exact tare and max gross weight are on each container's door and CSC plate. Road limits may allow less. For guidance only.

20′ Reefer

20 ft refrigerated · 20RF · ISO 22R1



A fridge on the move. It has its own cooling unit at one end and keeps a set temperature, usually from −30 °C to +30 °C.

28.3 m³	**27.4 t**	**3.0 t**
space inside	max cargo weight	empty weight

Inside length	**5.44 m (17′10″)**
Inside width	**2.29 m (7′6″)**
Inside height	**2.27 m (7′5″)**
Door opening (w × h)	**2.29 × 2.26 m**
Total space inside	**28.3 m³ (CBM)**
Realistic cartons load	**about 22–25 m³**
Empty weight (tare)	**about 3,050 kg**
Most cargo it can carry (payload)	**about 27,430 kg**
Maximum total weight (gross)	**30,480 kg**
Pallets	**about 10 Euro pallets**
Outside size (l × w × h)	**6.06 × 2.44 × 2.59 m**
ISO type code	**22R1**

GOOD FOR
Frozen or chilled food, fruit and vegetables, pharmaceuticals, chemicals that must stay cool.

WATCH OUT
Thick insulated walls mean less space inside than a normal 20′. It needs power at the port and on the ship, which adds cost.

FLOOR AND WEIGHT
T-shaped floor lets cold air flow under the cargo. Do not block the air flow and do not load above the red line.

Not sure which container you need? Ask YAM.

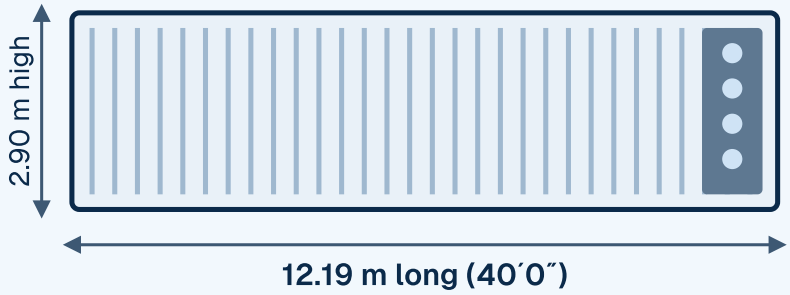
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40′ High Cube Reefer

40 ft refrigerated · 40RH · 40RF HC · ISO 45R1



The standard long reefer. Most 40′ reefers today are high cubes.

67.5 m³
space inside

29.5 t
max cargo weight

4.5 t
empty weight

Inside length	**11.58 m (38′0″)**
Inside width	**2.29 m (7′6″)**
Inside height	**2.55 m (8′4″)**
Door opening (w × h)	**2.29 × 2.57 m**
Total space inside	**67.5 m³ (CBM)**
Realistic cartons load	**about 55–60 m³**
Empty weight (tare)	**about 4,480 kg**
Most cargo it can carry (payload)	**about 29,520 kg**
Maximum total weight (gross)	**34,000 kg**
Pallets	**about 20 standard or 23 Euro pallets**
Outside size (l × w × h)	**12.19 × 2.44 × 2.90 m**
ISO type code	**45R1**

GOOD FOR
Larger volumes of chilled or frozen cargo: fruit, meat, seafood, dairy, vaccines and medicines.

WATCH OUT
Pre-cool the cargo before loading. A reefer keeps cargo cold; it is not designed to cool warm cargo down.

FLOOR AND WEIGHT
T-shaped floor for air flow. Keep cargo below the red load line and leave space at the door end.

Not sure which container you need? Ask YAM.

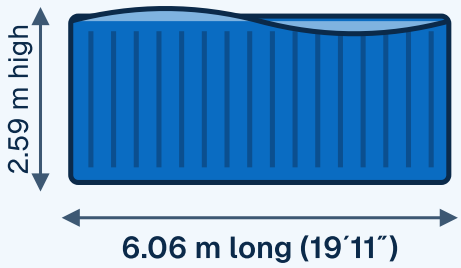
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Typical values. Exact tare and max gross weight are on each container's door and CSC plate. Road limits may allow less. For guidance only.

20′ Open Top

20 ft open top · 20OT · ISO 22U1



A 20′ with no hard roof, just a removable tarpaulin, so cargo can be lowered in from above by crane.

32.5 m³	28.1 t	2.4 t
space inside	max cargo weight	empty weight

Inside length	**5.89 m (19′4″)**
Inside width	**2.35 m (7′9″)**
Inside height	**2.35 m (7′9″)**
Door opening (w × h)	**2.34 × 2.26 m**
Total space inside	**32.5 m³ (CBM)**
Empty weight (tare)	**about 2,350 kg**
Most cargo it can carry (payload)	**about 28,130 kg**
Maximum total weight (gross)	**30,480 kg**
Pallets	**10 standard or 11 Euro pallets**
Outside size (l × w × h)	**6.06 × 2.44 × 2.59 m**
ISO type code	**22U1**

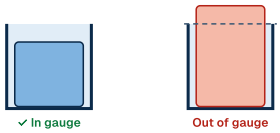
GOOD FOR
Tall or heavy items that cannot go through the doors: machinery, marble blocks, pipes, cable drums.

WATCH OUT
Cargo taller than the walls is 'out of gauge' and costs more. Fewer of these boxes are available, so book early.

FLOOR AND WEIGHT
Strong floor for heavy machinery, but spread the load. Lashing rings inside for securing cargo.

IN GAUGE OR OUT OF GAUGE?

In gauge: Cargo fits completely inside the walls and below the top edge (inside height about 2.35 m). The tarpaulin closes over it and it is priced like a normal open top.



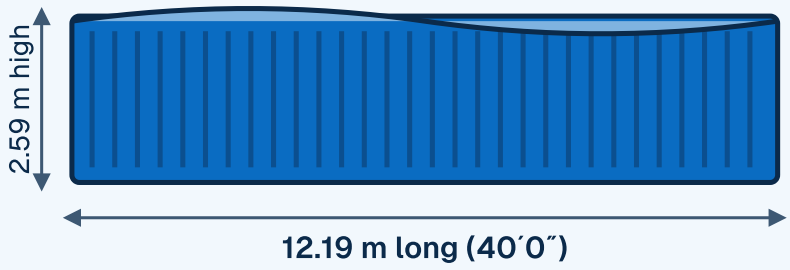
Out of gauge (OOG): Cargo taller than the walls is 'out of gauge' (over-height). The tarpaulin cannot close, nothing can be stacked on top of it on the ship, and the line charges extra for the space it blocks. It needs the shipping line's approval before booking.

Send us the exact length, width, height and weight of each piece, ideally with a drawing, and we will tell you if it fits in gauge.

Typical values. Exact tare and max gross weight are on each container's door and CSC plate. Road limits may allow less. For guidance only.

40′ Open Top

40 ft open top · 40OT · ISO 42U1



The long version of the open top, for long items that must be loaded from above.

66.5 m³	26.6 t	3.9 t
space inside	max cargo weight	empty weight

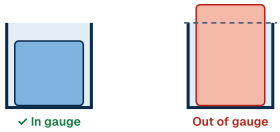
Inside length	**12.03 m (39′6″)**
Inside width	**2.35 m (7′9″)**
Inside height	**2.35 m (7′9″)**
Door opening (w × h)	**2.34 × 2.26 m**
Total space inside	**66.5 m³ (CBM)**
Empty weight (tare)	**about 3,850 kg**
Most cargo it can carry (payload)	**about 26,630 kg**
Maximum total weight (gross)	**30,480 kg**
Pallets	**21 standard or 25 Euro pallets**
Outside size (l × w × h)	**12.19 × 2.44 × 2.59 m**
ISO type code	**42U1**

GOOD FOR
Long pipes, steel structures, timber, long machinery parts.

WATCH OUT
Tarpaulin roof is not watertight like a steel roof. Protect sensitive cargo.

FLOOR AND WEIGHT
Rule of thumb: about 3 tonnes per running metre. Lashing rings along the sides.

IN GAUGE OR OUT OF GAUGE?



In gauge: Cargo fits completely inside the walls and below the top edge (inside height about 2.35 m). The tarpaulin closes over it and it is priced like a normal open top.

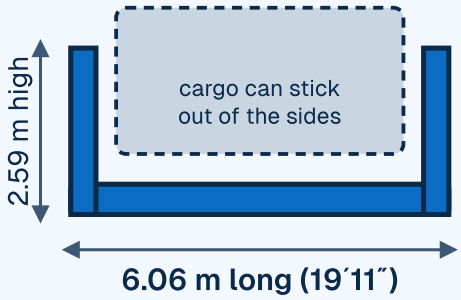
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Send us the exact length, width, height and weight of each piece, ideally with a drawing, and we will tell you if it fits in gauge.

Typical values. Exact tare and max gross weight are on each container's door and CSC plate. Road limits may allow less. For guidance only.

20′ Flat Rack

20 ft flat rack · 20FR · ISO 22P1



A strong floor with two end walls and no sides or roof. Cargo can stick out of the sides or top.

Open
no sides or roof

31.2 t
max cargo weight

2.8 t
empty weight

Inside space (between end walls)	**5.94 m (19′6″)**
Width between posts	**2.35 m**
End wall height	**2.35 m**
Empty weight (tare)	**about 2,750 kg**
Most cargo it can carry (payload)	**about 31,250 kg**
Maximum total weight (gross)	**34,000 kg**
Outside size (l × w × h)	**6.06 × 2.44 × 2.59 m**
ISO type code	**22P1**

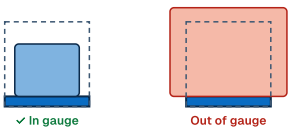
GOOD FOR
Very heavy or oversized items: generators, transformers, vehicles, boats, construction machines.

WATCH OUT
Cargo wider or taller than the rack is 'out of gauge' and needs special stowage and pricing. Must be lashed properly.

FLOOR AND WEIGHT
Heavy-duty floor built for concentrated weight, but load must still be spread and secured to the lashing points.

IN GAUGE OR OUT OF GAUGE?

In gauge: Cargo stays within the outline of a normal container: no wider than the rack (2.44 m outside) and no taller than a standard container (2.59 m including the rack floor). It is handled almost like a normal box.



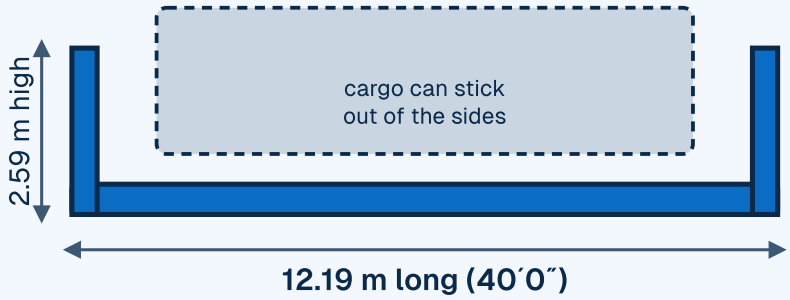
Out of gauge (OOG): Cargo that is wider (over-width), taller (over-height) or longer (over-length) than that outline is 'out of gauge'. It takes up space next to or above it on the ship, so the line charges for those lost slots, and it may need special road permits or escorts in India.

For out-of-gauge cargo we need exact dimensions, weight, centre of gravity and lifting points before the line will accept the booking. Ask us early.

Typical values. Exact tare and max gross weight are on each container's door and CSC plate. Road limits may allow less. For guidance only.

40′ Flat Rack

40 ft flat rack · 40FR · ISO 45P1



The long flat rack. It can carry up to about 40 tonnes, far more than a normal 40′.

Open
no sides or roof

40.0 t
max cargo weight

5.0 t
empty weight

Inside space (between end walls)	**12.06 m (39′7″)**
Width between posts	**2.12 m**
End wall height	**1.96 m**
Empty weight (tare)	**about 5,000 kg**
Most cargo it can carry (payload)	**about 40,000 kg**
Maximum total weight (gross)	**45,000 kg**
Outside size (l × w × h)	**12.19 × 2.44 × 2.59 m**
ISO type code	**45P1**

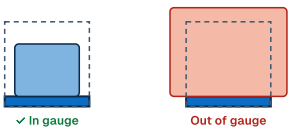
GOOD FOR
Long and very heavy cargo: industrial machinery, boilers, heavy vehicles, large steel structures.

WATCH OUT
Check road permits for heavy and wide loads in India and at destination before you book.

FLOOR AND WEIGHT
Built for heavy concentrated loads. Ask us for a lashing and weight distribution plan.

IN GAUGE OR OUT OF GAUGE?

In gauge: Cargo stays within the outline of a normal container: no wider than the rack (2.44 m outside) and no taller than a standard container (2.59 m including the rack floor). It is handled almost like a normal box.



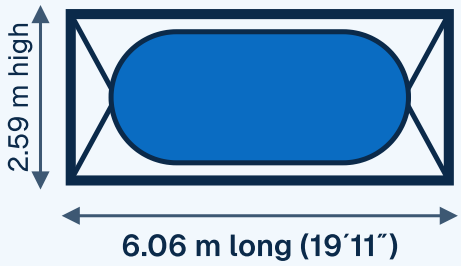
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For out-of-gauge cargo we need exact dimensions, weight, centre of gravity and lifting points before the line will accept the booking. Ask us early.

Typical values. Exact tare and max gross weight are on each container's door and CSC plate. Road limits may allow less. For guidance only.

20′ ISO Tank

20 ft tank container · ISO tank · ISO 22T1



A steel tank inside a container-sized frame, for liquids in bulk instead of drums.

21,000–26,000 L
tank capacity

26.0 t
max cargo weight

3.6 t
empty weight

Tank capacity	**21,000–26,000 litres**
Empty weight (tare)	**about 3,600 kg**
Most cargo it can carry (payload)	**about 26,000 kg**
Maximum total weight (gross)	**36,000 kg**
Outside size (l × w × h)	**6.06 × 2.44 × 2.59 m**
ISO type code	**22T1**

GOOD FOR
Liquid chemicals, oils, food-grade liquids, some hazardous liquids.

WATCH OUT
Must be filled between about 80% and 95% to stop the liquid surging, so the real cargo weight depends on the tank size and how heavy the liquid is. Cleaning certificates are needed between loads.

FLOOR AND WEIGHT
No floor: the load sits in the tank. The frame stacks like any other container.

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