

CONTAINER REQUIREMENT 51

The illustrations shown in this Container Requirement are examples only. Containers that conform to the principle of written guidelines but look slightly different will still meet the IATA standards.

Applicable to:

Aquatic Amphibians	Octopus
Cui-ui	Seahorses
Fish, n.o.s. (unless arrangements made for specialized packing)	Tropical fish
Goldfish	Water snail

OPERATOR VARIATIONS: CO-04/05/09, JL-01, LH-02, QF-01, UA-01

1. CONTAINER CONSTRUCTION

Materials

Water-resistant fibreboard, insulating material, plastic or wood, expanded polystyrene or styrofoam.

Principles of Design

The following principles of design must be met in addition to the General Container Requirements outlined at the beginning of this chapter.

Outer Container

The outer container can be constructed of fibreboard, wood, wood products or any plastic material of adequate strength. Purpose-built containers made of expanded polystyrene or styrofoam must be of adequate strength.

Care must be taken to ensure no sharp edges or stapled closings on the outer container punctures the inner plastic bag, which expands from change in altitude.

Inner Container

Strong plastic (polyethylene) bag.

The bags are fastened by twisting the top and folding the twisted part so that it can be sealed with elastic bands. The bags may also be heat sealed.

Warning: Heat-sealed bags cannot be re-oxygenated in the event of the consignment being delayed.

It is preferable that each bag is placed in an outer bag of similar size to prevent leakage of water.

Note:

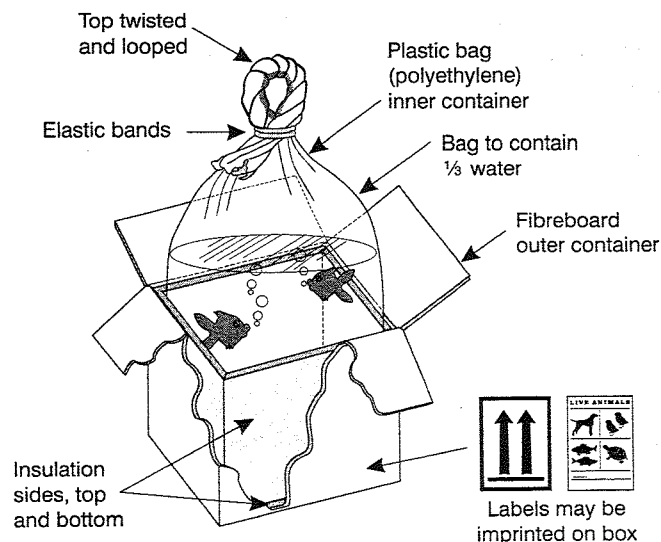
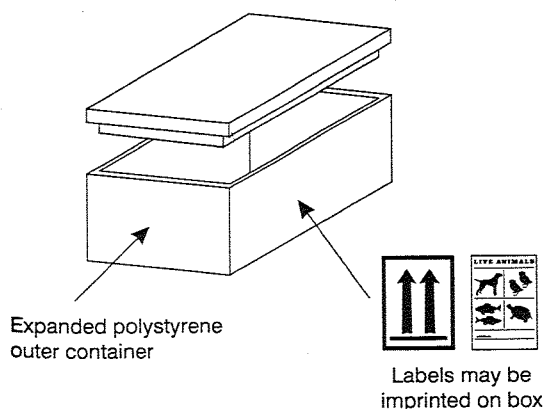
States may require the physical inspection of the contents of shipments tendered by shippers meeting a specific state mandated criteria as determined by the transporting carrier.

Spiny fish must be placed in an inner container of hard plastic within a polyethylene bag or they may be contained in an inner polyethylene bag separated by several layers of paper from an outer polyethylene bag. In such cases, both bags must be adequately sealed.

Insulation/Cushioning

Expanded polystyrene container or expanded polystyrene sheets on all sides including top and bottom, is recommended. Alternatively, compressed newspaper, woodwool or approximately 0,6 cm (1/4 in) thickness of newspaper or other fibrous material sandwiched between two sheets of kraft paper.

EXAMPLE





2. PREPARATIONS BEFORE DISPATCH

There must be one species per bag.

The inner bag must be filled with water to approximately 1/3 of its capacity. The remaining 2/3 of the container is to be filled with oxygen. Use of ice cubes or chemicals such as methylene blue, volume of water and the amount of fish in the container are the shipper's responsibility. Carriers will not re-oxygenate fish shipments unless by special prearranged agreement.

- Seahorses can be shipped in plastic bags as long as they can anchor themselves to something in order to minimize stress. A PVC mesh may be placed inside and weighed down with non-leaded weights. A recommended maximum of three animals of a length of 60 mm (or four of 45 mm) can be packed in a 250 – 380 mm bag. If shipment goes from warm to cold climate, it is suggested to add a heat pack. Conversely, if seahorses are shipped from cold to tropical climate, ice packs should be used.

Aquatic amphibians can be shipped in the same manner as fish, but as some of them are able to breath air and will do so, the airspace above the water should consist of 50% pure oxygen and 50% normal air like in airbreathing fish. Pure oxygen can be detrimental to lung tissue. Aquatic amphibians are not to be fed 2 days prior of shipment to avoid fouling of the water.

The condition of fish and amphibians is directly affected by:

the density, i.e. the number of fish or amphibians according to size in a given quantity of water;

temperature of water.

For tropical fish insulation must be provided by the shipper within each unit to ensure a suitable temperature of 20°C (68°F) for the longest possible period.

Some species must be individually packed due to their sensitive reactions or aggressive tendencies.

Shippers must pack fish to survive unattended for at least 48 hours from time of acceptance by the airline.

Note:

For aquatic amphibians from tropical regions like Pipa, Hymenochirus, Typhlonectes, the temperature should be about 20°C (68°F). For other species like Axolotl, Newt and Salamandar larvae, Andrias and Cryptobranchus, the temperature should not exceed 15°C (59°F)

The shipper must clearly mark on the container the local time and the date at which the animals were packed.

The shipper must indicate the acceptable temperature range (in Celsius and Fahrenheit) on the outside of the box in which the animals can be stored.

3. GENERAL CARE AND LOADING (see Chapters 5 and 10)

Animals must be held in areas where the ambient air temperature reduces the heat transfer to the absolute minimum.

No consignment of fish must be accepted if the planned journey exceeds 48 hours. Consignments of live fish must be treated as perishable items and handled accordingly.

For the purpose of providing life support for aquatic species during transport, a cylinder containing oxygen (compressed), UN 1072, packed in accordance with the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations, may be carried to oxygenate the water with the approval of the appropriate authority of the States of origin, destination and of the operator.