

FACT SHEET 6/98

November 1998

## CONTAINER CLEANLINESS STANDARDS

### INFORMATION FOR SHIPPERS, PACKERS, SHIPPING LINES AND THEIR AGENTS

As a general guide and ease of reference to all those involved in the transport chain, the Australian Chamber of Shipping has categorised the standard of cleanliness required for the carriage of various cargoes into four basic groups. This guide has been formulated in consultation with various industry organisations to achieve national uniformity for cleanliness standards suitable for the carriage of cargo.

<b>GRADE</b>	<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>COMMODITIES</b>
<b>FOOD CONTAINER (FC) (Including DPI Grade)</b>	No Taint No Flaking Paint No Interior Transferable Stains Clean & Dry Floor No Cargo Residue No Infestation	Dried Fruit Flour Grain/Peas/Cereals Rice
<b>CLEAN CONTAINER (CC)</b>	No Obnoxious Odours No Flaking Paint No Transferable Internal Rust No Transferable Floor Stains Clean & Dry Floor No Cargo Residue No Infestation	Milk Powder Canned Fruit Personnel Effects Pet Food Bulk Food Commodities - (with fitted liner)
<b>GENERAL CARGO (GC)</b>	No Cargo Residue Dry Floor Normal Wear & Tear Acceptable	General Cargo Cotton Steel Machinery Tyres
<b>MULTI PURPOSE CONTAINER (MC)</b>	No Cargo Residue Cargo Worthy Suitable for carriage of non- sensitive Cargo. Includes containers prepared with linings and absorbent material.	Hides Bone Meal Bagged Chemicals Scrap

All containers should be cargo worthy, ie. in sound, safe and weatherproof condition fitted with good door gaskets, functional door securing & sealing components, and complying with CSC,

TIR, ISO, IICL and AQIS requirements. The general external appearance is insignificant, providing the container fulfils the other criteria.

All those involved in the transport chain are also guided by the existing regulations and current Department of Primary Industries & Energy (DPIE) regulations and inspection criteria indicated in the DPIE booklet, *Standards – For Food Quality Shipping Containers*.

### Condition - Guidelines

<b>Exterior</b>	To be weatherproof. No daylight to be visible from inside container when doors shut. No labels from previous cargo.
<b>Hinges and Latches</b>	To be in a good state of repair, and to be easy to operate.
<b>Door Gaskets</b>	To be pliable and weatherproof. The surfaces they seal should be smooth and free of excessive rust or scale build-up.
<b>Interior</b>	No protrusions, projections or sharp edges which could damage the cargo (nails, bolts etc). Walls to be clean to touch. No flaking paint and no excessive rust for FC & CC categories. Floor free from splinters. For some cargo, floor stains may be covered with paper or lining. Deformities which limit the loading capacity not allowed.
<b>Cargo Residue</b>	Residues of plant material and previous cargoes should not exist in any quantity or form that could contaminate, infest, transfer or damage the Cargo. No debris or mould allowed.
<b>Dryness</b>	For FC, it may be appropriate to sweep and vacuum the container, rather than water or steam clean unless sufficient time is available to ensure dryness. The floor must be clean and dry to the touch. No free moisture should be present on the walls or roof of a container.
<b>Odour</b>	To be assessed immediately the doors are opened. No harmful or offensive odours allowed for FC (eg. Phenol, Paint, Solvent, Chlorine, Chemicals, Epoxy Resin, Disinfectant or Mustiness). Persistent Odours are not acceptable - there should not be a presence of any smell of a particular substance or of an unpleasant nature within the container which continues after the container has been vented with doors fully open for 30 minutes then closed and reopened at least 24 hours later). Except for recently painted containers, most odours emanate from the wooden floor due to spillage of previous cargo or microbial action on substances in the wood. Mustiness is accelerated by moisture and warm temperature.
<b>Infestation</b>	Containers should not contain or harbour any live or dead pests, insects, snails, egg larvae, droppings etc.
<b>Rust</b>	Surface rust is permissible, unless if it is transferable or flaking.

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Published by the Australian Chamber of Shipping Ltd  
Level 5, 6-8 Underwood Street SYDNEY NSW 2000  
A.C.N. 002 950 870

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