

If at all possible use a crating specialist for construction of wood export boxes or crates. Their knowledge and ability can produce a suitable container at a very competitive cost compared with in house activities. Their guarantees relative to containment quality and packing of the goods in the crate or box may reduce insurance costs, and will be beneficial if a claim should be made against the carrier for loss or damage.

Wire Crates

Usually used by high volume shippers as reusable containers for items in the auto trades. Not usually used in export trades unless with a liner, as the goods are not protected and are very easy to pilfer.

Barrels, Casks or kegs

Not usually used today, except in specialized trades involving spirits or contents in brine. Carriage of dry powders and the like is now usually in Flexible Intermediate Bulk Containers (FIBC's)

Multiwall Shipping Sacks

These should only be shipped palletized; the specification and preparation of sacks for each product (eg cement, flour, grains) is very important, and must be undertaken in conjunction with the supplier.

Bales

Bales, like barrels and casks, can still be used for shipment, but could be subject to damage by water, handling hooks and pilferage.

Flexible Intermediate Bulk Carriers

FIBC's come in several types and may be designed for single or multiple use. Typically used for dry bulk commodities in single units of 1-3 tonne capacity. Like multi-wall sacks, they should be specified in conjunction with the manufacturer and designed for both the product and the use.

Alternative Systems

A number of companies, pressured in part by the growing cost of disposal for conventional packaging materials, have moved to alternative systems using blankets, and cushioning material that can be readily recycled or returned. These systems are often used for items like chairs, auto components and the like, where handling is limited, and full truckload lots are involved. They could be used for full container shipments door to door in export trades where there is only a need to provide superficial protection because intermediate handling is limited.