

- when using refrigerated equipment with integral reefer units, ensure that the temperature setting is correct for the commodity to be packed.

b. Internal

- equipment should be clean and there should be no evidence of previous cargo;
- make sure no nails or other protruding objects can cause damage to your cargo;
- if delicate goods susceptible to damage by bad odours are to be packed, equipment should be "sweet-smelling"; cross-taint can be saturated by either burning coffee beans or using a deodorant spray;
- before packing highly delicate goods, equipment should be lined with paper or plastic;
- satisfy yourself that the interior is absolutely dry; any present "sweat" or frost should be wiped off to avoid damage from dampness;
- to check whether the container is watertight, enter the container and have both doors shut; if any spots of light can be seen, water can gain entry;
- if you intend to ship goods liable to leakage and/or producing bad odours, equipment should be protected by plastic foils and absorbing material.

4. Consolidated Shipments

Goods transported in consolidated shipments, in less than carload (LCL) or in less than truckload (LTL) quantities, must be marked, labelled and fully identified on a per item basis. In preparing such shipments, you should try to determine what other types of goods could come in contact with your products, and prepare them accordingly. Carriers and other transport enterprises should be notified about the sensitivity of goods in proximity to other substances.

5. Dangerous Goods

The handling, transport and storage of dangerous goods and hazardous substances are strictly regulated both domestically and internationally. You, as the exporter and shipper, are responsible to ensure compliance with all such regulations.

Various regulations apply, depending on the modal service used:

- International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (International Conventions)
- Regulations for the Transportation of Dangerous Goods by Rail (Rail; Canada);
- *Title 49 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations* (Rail and Trucking in the U. S. A.);
- Regulations for the Transportation of Dangerous Goods by Air (both International Civil Aviation Organization [ICAO] and International Air Transport Association [IATA] regulations);
- *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act and Regulations and Provincial Companion Legislation* (Trucking, Canada).

Regulations generally cover:

- product identification by name, number and classifications;
- packaging instructions and specifications;
- marking and labelling;
- documentation;
- handling; and
- emergency response procedures.

Only you as the exporter and shipper are legally held responsible for compliance with dangerous goods regulations and for signing dangerous goods documents.

6. Seeking Advice

You can seek advice on how best to prepare your goods for international transport from carriers and other transport enterprises, such as freight forwarders. They can provide expertise on correct packaging and handling procedures, blocking and bracing procedures and minimum protection standards. Boxmakers also have access to information on package strengths and international packaging standards.