

# PACKING ADVISORY





Efficient packing of shipping containers is crucial for a cost-effective supply chain. Inadequate packaging can lead to damaged goods, increased shipping costs, and delivery delays, negatively impacting customer satisfaction.

Benefits of adopting best packing practices include:

- Reduced product damage through secure packaging
- Lower shipping costs by optimising space and weight
- Improved supply chain efficiency with quicker loading/unloading and better inventory control
- Enhanced brand reputation through the delivery of intact goods
- Regulatory compliance to avoid fines and support environmental goals

Investing in proper packing procedures protects products, lowers operational costs, and boosts supply chain efficiency.



# Pre- Packing Considerations

Before packing begins, ensure the CTU is clean, dry, pest-free, and structurally sound. Verify the container has a valid CSC Safety Approval Plate. Confirm that the cargo weight does not exceed maximum payload for UK road transport/destination transport regulations .

All wood packaging must comply with ISPM-15 standards.

A packing plan should be prepared, and staff must be trained in safe packing practices and pest contamination avoidance.





# Packing Procedures

Distribute cargo weight evenly across the container floor. Heavier items should be placed at the bottom with lighter items on top. Ensure the centre of gravity is low and central. Use appropriate dunnage, blocking, bracing, and lashing to prevent cargo movement. Avoid over-tightening lashings and do not use knots in web lashings. Use non-slip mats where necessary.

Dangerous goods should be packed near the doors of the container where possible, subject to segregation regulation. They must be clearly marked, labelled and packed as per the IMDG Code.





# Cargo Securing and Void Filling

Void spaces should be minimised and filled using airbags, pallets, or timber bracing. Blocking and bracing should distribute forces evenly. Lashing points must not be overstressed. Use spreader beams or timber gates to secure cargo. Airbags must be properly inflated and monitored for temperature changes.



# Dangerous Goods Handling

Dangerous goods must be declared, documented, marked, labelled, and placarded in accordance with the IMDG Code. Ensure segregation rules are followed and that incompatible goods are not packed together. Use the CTU Code and IMDG segregation tables to verify compatibility. Include flashpoints, marine pollutant status, and control temperatures where applicable.





# Post-Packing and Dispatch

After packing, close and seal the container securely. Record the container number, seal number, and Verified Gross Mass (VGM) where appropriate. Ensure all documentation is complete and accurate. Remove old placards and labels. Communicate cargo details, including dangerous goods declarations, to the carrier promptly.



# Container Packing Checklist

Use the CTU Code Container Packing Checklist to verify compliance with safety and pest contamination requirements. This includes checks on container condition, cargo securing, dangerous goods handling, and documentation. Refer to the full checklist for detailed step-by-step verification.





# Training and Resources

This document provides comprehensive guidance for Meachers Global Logistics clients on the safe and compliant packing of cargo into Cargo Transport Units (CTUs).

It integrates best practices and regulatory requirements from the

[CTU Code](#)

[Cargo Securing Guidance](#)

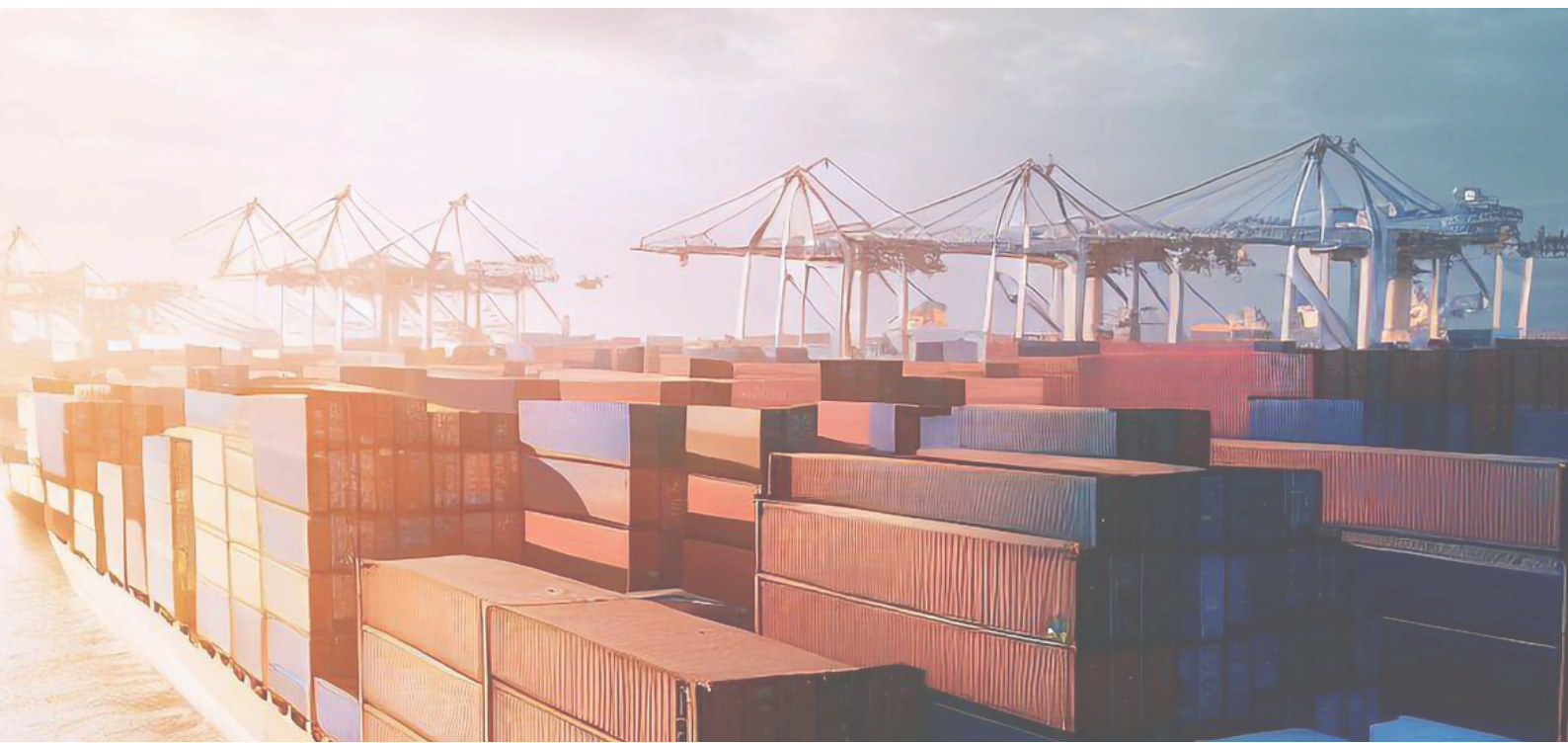
[National Cargo Bureau \(NCB\)](#)

[Container Packing Checklist](#)

['Book it Right and Pack it Tight' guide](#)

[FIATA Container Packing App](#)

This digital tool is designed to support freight forwarders, packers, and logistics professionals in applying best practices for the safe and compliant packing of containers wherever they are.



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