

Hapag-Lloyd Reefer Cargo

Special Handling for Reefer Containers



Refrigerated cargo isn't just any commodity stuffed into a container. If you're using a reefer container, your goods are probably perishable, temperature-sensitive, or high in value. That's why we stress the importance of special handling for reefers.

Hapag-Lloyd container depots ensure that your reefer boxes are clean and in sound condition upon release for a new transport.

To ensure the best possible cargo care, we ask you to observe the following guidelines:

Cargo Weight

Cargo weight plays a significant role in maintaining temperatures inside a reefer container in case of no active cooling. The same principle applies as with an ice pack: **low cargo weight means low thermal mass.**

No active cooling normally happens during gate-in and gate-out at the terminal as well as during loading and discharging operations due to energy power-offs. These can cause major temperature deviations in reefer containers filled lightly with low thermal mass. In order to minimize temperature deviation during power-offs, we strongly recommend the **minimum cargo weight to be 3,000 kilograms in 20' reefer containers and 5,000 kilograms in 40' reefer containers.**

Tips prior to stuffing

- Only accept clean reefer containers from depot
- Use of adequate packaging material – keep in mind plastic wrapping may act as vapor barrier and prevent air circulation that your product possibly needs
- Before you start filling your reefer container make sure that the product temperature is the same as the transport temperature
- Preferably, your refrigerated cargo should be sourced from a refrigerated loading bay

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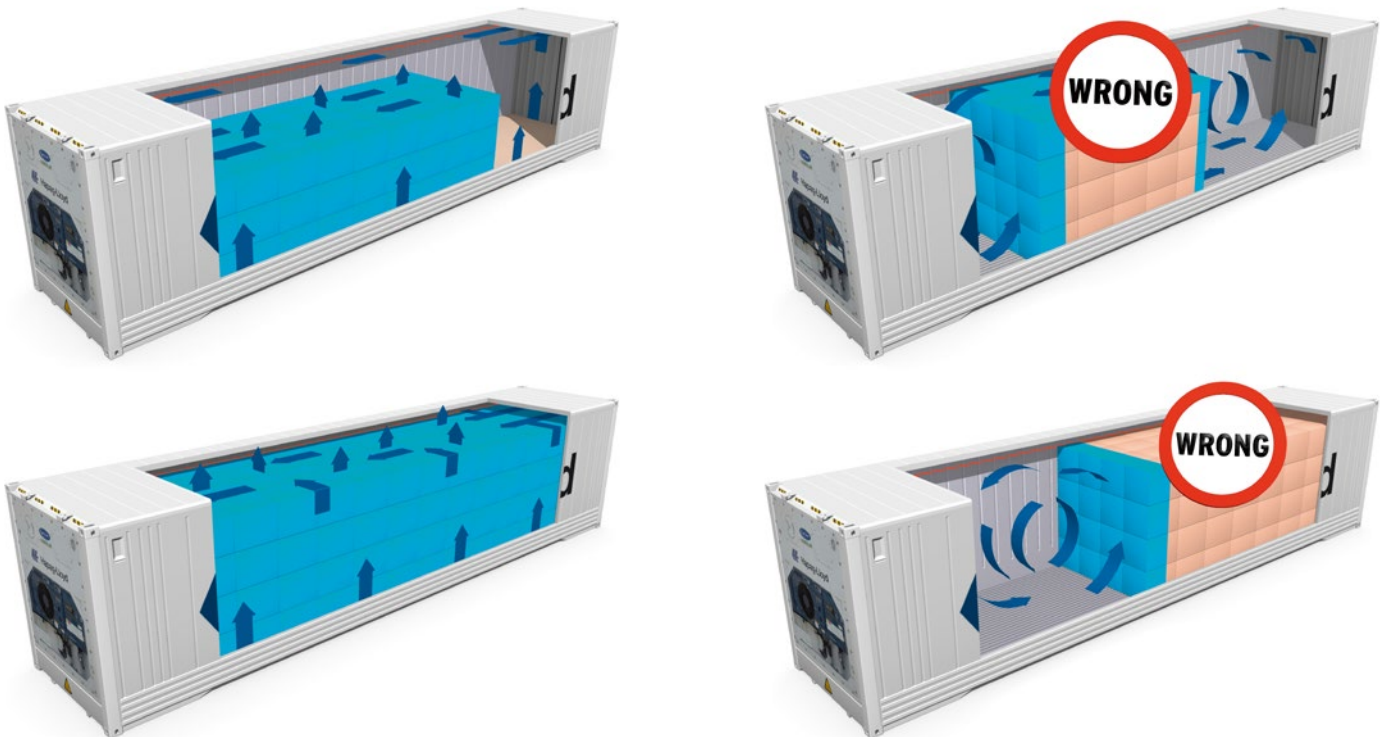
How to stuff your reefer containers

- Switch off the power unit during loading operation
- Ensure your cargo is evenly stuffed in a correct manner
- Do not stack boxes above load line; spacers will help to stabilize cargo and ensure optimal airflow
- Avoid poor air circulation, which is amongst primary causes of product deterioration
- Any gaps may not exceed 5 % of floor area to prevent negative impact on airflow
- Use board or dunnage material to fill gaps and open floor areas
- Do not load cargo beyond the surface specified by the “T-Bar” floor inside the container
- To ensure free airflow, there must be no space between the load units in front of the air distribution point of the unit

Complete your loading operation

- Close doors properly
- Ensure that the correct set points for transport temperature, humidity and air ventilation are set
- Put reefer power unit into operation

Container airflow



Please note: Adequate refrigeration relies on good air circulation around your entire load!