

## IATA REGULATIONS FOR TRANSPORTING HORSES:

### Four Horse Containers

Horses may be transported in a four horse configuration stall provided that the following conditions are met:

- The width of the stall must be the width of the animal at its widest point plus a minimum space of 7.6 cm (3 in) on each side (i.e. width of animal plus 15.2 cm [6 in] in total).
- Four-horse containers should only be loaded on the main deck of wide body freighters or combi aircraft where the horses are accessible to the groom/attendant at all times.
- Shipment must comply with the requirements specified in this Container Requirement.

Live Animals Regulations 2012 - Container Requirements

File Edit View Tools Language

Home LAR Manual Classification Container Requirements LAR Search

TOC Index History

Type in the keyword to find

Abbreviations  
Acceptance  
Acknowledgements  
Advance arrangements  
Advice to Captain  
Air Transport  
Air Waybill  
Aircraft compartment  
Animal Behaviour  
Animal Holding Areas  
Animals  
Animals in airmail  
Appendices  
Application of these Regulations  
Attendants  
Behaviour under stress  
Birds  
Body Width  
Calculation of Animal Heat and Moisture Load  
Carapace Length  
Carcasses disposal  
Care Giving Behaviour  
Care seeking behaviour  
Carriage  
Carriage of pets  
Carriage of pregnant animals  
Carrier Regulations  
Carrier's Acceptance  
Carrier's Liability  
Carrier's Responsibilities

### CONTAINER REQUIREMENT 2

The illustrations shown in this Container Requirement are examples only. Containers that conform to the principle of written guidelines for the species but look slightly different will still meet the IATA standards.

**Applicable to:**  
Camel (large)  
Horse (domestic)  
Mini horse  
Mule  
Pony (domestic)  
Pony foals and yearlings

STATE VARIATIONS: [GBG-01](#) [GBG-02](#) [GBG-04](#) [HKG-05](#) [LBG-02](#) [SAG-03](#)

OPERATOR VARIATIONS: [DO-09](#) [EK-01](#) [EK-04](#) [KL-05](#) [LO-01](#) [QF-01](#) [QY-09](#) [SV-04](#) [ZA-05](#) [ZA-06](#) [ZA-07](#)

#### 1. CONTAINER CONSTRUCTION

**Materials**  
Metal and/or wood and suitable padding.

**Principles of Design**  
The following principles of design must be met in addition to the General Container Requirements outlined at the beginning of this chapter.

**Size**  
The dimensions of the stall must be in proportion to the animal in order to restrict excessive movement during transport.  
The width of the stall must be the width of the animal at its widest point plus a minimum space of 7.6 cm (3 in) on each side, i.e. width of animal plus 15.2 cm (6 in) in total.

**Frame**  
Must be of strong construction, either welded or bolted together, with no internal projections.

**Sides**  
Solid up to a height that will prevent the escape of urine depending on the species and sex of the animals

TOC Index History

Type in the keyword to find

- Abbreviations
- Acceptance
- Acknowledgements
- Advance arrangements
- Advice to Captain
- Air Transport
- Air Waybill
- Aircraft compartment
- Animal Behaviour
- Animal Holding Areas
- Animals
- Animals in airmail
- Appendices
- Application of these Regulations
- Attendants
- Behaviour under stress
- Birds
- Body Width
- Calculation of Animal Heat and Moisture Load
- Carapace Length
- Carcasses disposal
- Care Giving Behaviour
- Care seeking behaviour
- Carriage
- Carriage of pets
- Carriage of pregnant animals
- Carrier Regulations
- Carrier's Acceptance
- Carrier's Liability
- Carrier's Responsibilities

Solid with smooth interior and all reinforcing plates must be covered with protective material. The whole of the interior may be padded, the lower part of the internal sides must be covered with protective matting, approximately 5 cm (2 in) thick to a height that will protect the animal and the container if it kicks. The remainder of the interior can be covered with a foam plastic or rubber cushion that can be easily and repeatedly cleaned.

The head end of the stall must be notched and padded to accept the neck of the animal. When closed stalls are to be used there must be a padded chest bar fitted at the low neck/shoulder height to prevent the animal moving forward. When multiple stalls are used there must be a partition between the heads of the animals to prevent them from making contact with each other.

There must be a securing point for a halter rope to be fastened during transport.

**Floor**

Solid and leak-proof. Footholds appropriate to the species must be provided.

**Securing Provisions**

The stall must be equipped with tie down provisions on the sidewalls to allow tie down to the aircraft pallet or floor. When a net assembly is used to secure the stall onto an aircraft pallet the metal structure must be incorporated into the design to prevent the net assembly from touching the horse.

**Doors**

At the head end and/or rear of the stall, doors must have a secure means of fastening that is easy to operate, smooth and cannot cause injury to the horse.

There must be access at the head end and rear of the stall for the groom/attendant to reach the head and the hindquarters of the horse during transport.

**Structural Containers**

Must conform to the specifications of the IATA ULD technical manual.

The use of the double/triple/quadruple stall will be dependent upon the aircraft in which it will be carried. The canopy over the heads of the animals must be constructed of either metal, fibreglass, canvas or similar material and must not make contact with the ears of the animals. There must be access to the heads and hindquarters of all the horses at all times during transport.

**Four Horse Containers**

Horses may be transported in a four horse configuration stall provided that the following conditions are met:

- The width of the stall must be the width of the animal at its widest point plus a minimum space of 7.6 cm (3 in) on each side (i.e. width of animal plus 15.2 cm [6 in] in total).

TOC Index History

Type in the keyword to find

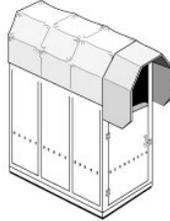
- Abbreviations
- Acceptance
- Acknowledgements
- Advance arrangements
- Advice to Captain
- Air Transport
- Air Waybill
- Aircraft compartment
- Animal Behaviour
- Animal Holding Areas
- Animals
- Animals in airmail
- Appendices
- Application of these Regulations
- Attendants
- Behaviour under stress
- Birds
- Body Width
- Calculation of Animal Heat and Moisture Load
- Carapace Length
- Carcasses disposal
- Care Giving Behaviour
- Care seeking behaviour
- Carriage
- Carriage of pets
- Carriage of pregnant animals
- Carrier Regulations
- Carrier's Acceptance
- Carrier's Liability
- Carrier's Responsibilities

Horses may be transported in a four horse configuration stall provided that the following conditions are met:

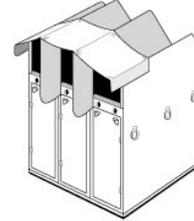
- The width of the stall must be the width of the animal at its widest point plus a minimum space of 7.6 cm (3 in) on each side (i.e. width of animal plus 15.2 cm [6 in] in total).
- Four-horse containers should only be loaded on the main deck of wide body freighters or combi aircraft where the horses are accessible to the groom/attendant at all times.
- Shipment must comply with the requirements specified in this Container Requirement.

**EXAMPLE:**

**SINGLE STALL WITH CANOPY**

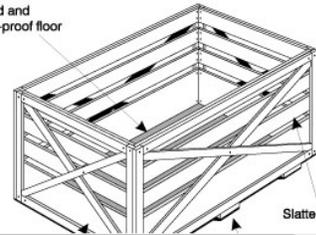


**TRIPLE STALL WITH CANOPY**

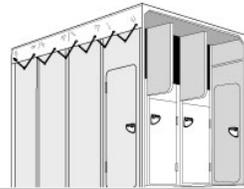


**BULK CRATE (see exceptions in Chapter 3)**

Solid and leak-proof floor



**TRIPLE STALL WITH ATTENDANT ACCESS**



TOC Index History

Type in the keyword to find

- Abbreviations
- Acceptance
- Acknowledgements
- Advance arrangements
- Advice to Captain
- Air Transport
- Air Waybill
- Aircraft compartment
- Animal Behaviour
- Animal Holding Areas
- Animals
- Animals in airmail
- Appendices
- Application of these Regulations
- Attendants
- Behaviour under stress
- Birds
- Body Width
- Calculation of Animal Heat and Moisture Load
- Carapace Length
- Carcasses disposal
- Care Giving Behaviour
- Care seeking behaviour
- Carriage
- Carriage of pets
- Carriage of pregnant animals
- Carrier Regulations
- Carrier's Acceptance
- Carrier's Liability
- Carrier's Responsibilities

### CONTAINER REQUIREMENT 3

The illustrations shown in this Container Requirement are examples only. Containers that conform to the principle of written guidelines for the species but look slightly different will still meet the IATA standards.

**Applicable to:**  
**bulk movement of—**  
Antelope (see also CR73)  
Calf  
Cattle  
Deer  
Goat  
Pig  
Sheep

STATE VARIATIONS: [GBG-01](#) [GBG-02](#) [GBG-04](#) [LBG-01](#) [SAG-01](#)

OPERATOR VARIATIONS: [EK-09](#) [EK-12](#) [GF-03](#) [QF-01](#) [QY-03](#) [QY-09](#) [SV-01](#) [SV-04](#) [SV-05](#) [SV-06](#) [SV-07](#) [SV-08](#) [SQ-02](#) [ZA-05](#) [ZA-06](#) [ZA-07](#)

#### 1. CONTAINER CONSTRUCTION

##### Materials

Metal, hardwood, fibreglass and polythene sheeting.

##### Principles of Design

The following principles of design must be met in addition to the General Container Requirements outlined at the beginning of this chapter.

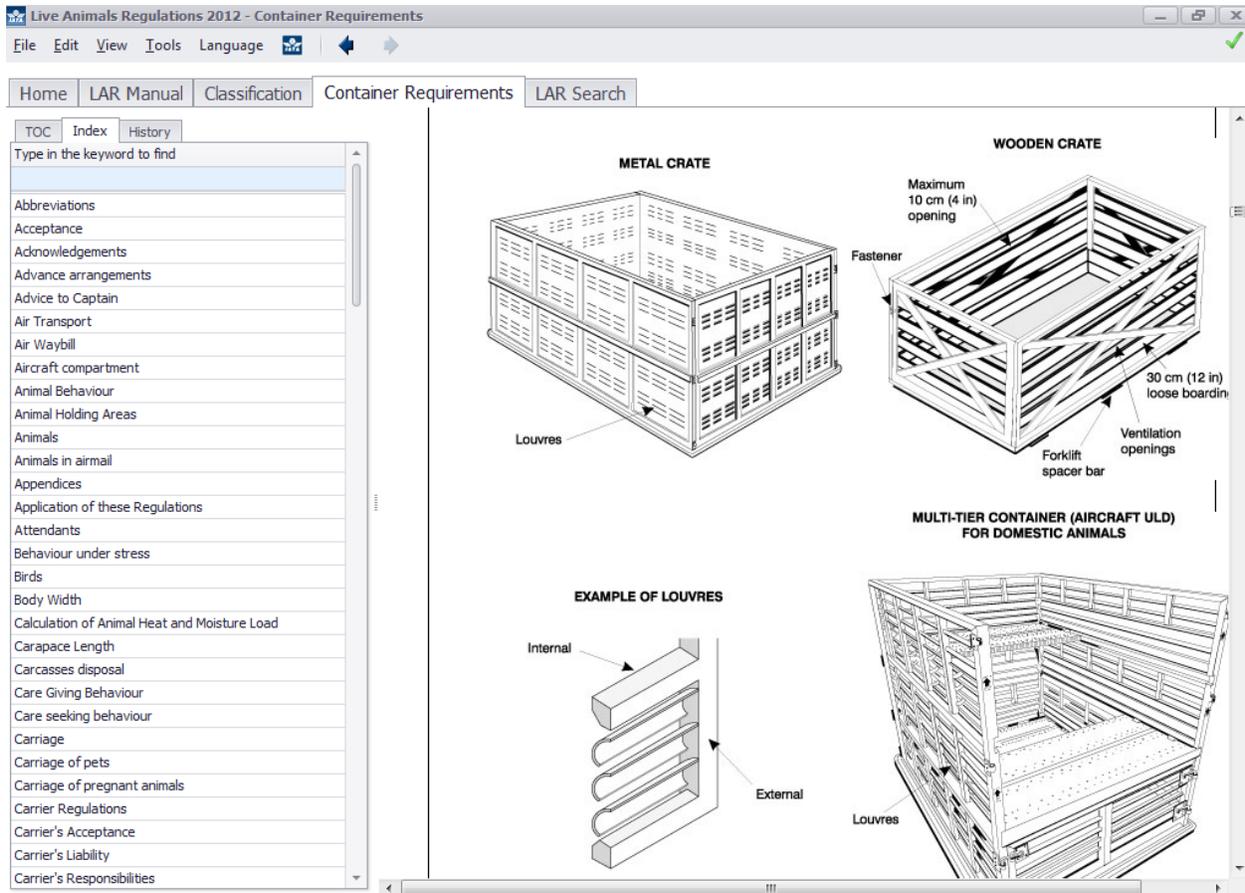
##### Size

The base of the dimensions must not exceed the size of the cargo pallet on which it is mounted. It must be of suitable dimensions for the aircraft into which it is to be loaded.

The animals must be able to stand up in a natural position. It is recommended that 10 cm (4 in) overhead space is provided for small farmstock and 20 cm (8 in) for large stock. For pigs 10 cm (4 in) and cattle 20 cm (8 in) over the shoulder or loin, whichever is the highest is suitable for both single and multiple deck containers.

##### Frame

The container must be of such a strength that it can be restrained on an aircraft pallet. If it is a structural



## 10.4 Specific Handling Procedures

### 10.4.1 Horses

Horses are very sensitive animals and they generally have a high value. Therefore, special care is required during all phases of transportation:

to ensure flight safety, the presence of attendant(s) is generally necessary to supervise the behaviour of the animals and intervene if needed;

attendants must have received adequate training. Especially, they must be qualified to administer tranquilisers and perform euthanasia;

stalls are usually provided by airlines and rented to the shippers;

horses must travel facing forwards or backwards to the direction of flight (see exception in Container Requirement 2);

mares and foals must be able to travel together or in close proximity depending on shipper's requirements;

pregnant females may require more space in the stall and the container must be adapted to their needs;

in general, horses have very fragile legs and greatest care must be taken not to harm them when the animals are walked into the stall. Protection of the legs may be considered necessary;

ground transportation and loading must be performed smoothly in order not to startle the animals;

after delivery of the animals at destination, the carriers' containers must be cleaned thoroughly before returning and disinfected before re-use.

#### 10.4.2 Bulk Movement

Two main methods can be used to carry large quantities of domestic animals such as cattle, pigs and sheep:

the aircraft can be specially equipped to receive a full load of bulk loaded animals. In this case, company manuals will provide the handling and loading information;

alternatively, the animals are placed in a pen mounted on a regular aircraft pallet;

the pen must be absolutely leak proof. Strong polyethylene sheeting must be placed between the container and the aircraft pallet and stapled to the sides of the container;

absorbent material must be supplied in ample quantity. The use of straw must be avoided due to quarantine restrictions;

#### 10.5 Feeding and Watering

Do not allow tidbits to be given to animals. Incorrect food can be dangerous to the animal.

Generally, it is not necessary to feed or water an animal in transit though certain species may need water depending on climatic conditions and total journey time. If this is required in transit, it is the shipper's responsibility to make advance arrangements for feeding and watering. The shipper must confirm these arrangements in writing at the time the shipment is rendered to the carrier. Any water provided must be fresh and uncontaminated.

Any packets of spare food provided by the shipper must be attached to the container. Food and water troughs must be fitted with outside fillers. Do not allow tidbits to be given to animals; wrong feeding can be dangerous. When food for the animal is provided, it must be established that the food does not contravene the import regulations of the country, or countries of transit and importation.

Feeding and watering instructions must be affixed to the container or to each container if more than one in the shipment. A copy of the instructions must accompany the shipping documents. Any feed or water given must be recorded on the container instructions with the date and time of supply.

To avoid risk of damaging the bladder of large ungulate animals, it is preferable to water the animal not less than two hours before loading in the container.

Most birds must be fed and watered before dispatching, since many of them need to eat and drink often to maintain their high metabolism (especially the small ones).

## 10.7 Health and Hygiene

### 10.7.1 Health and Hygiene (Animals)

Animal consignments must not be stowed in close proximity to foodstuffs during any stage of the journey because of serious risk of contamination.

When feasible, arrange for animals injured or having become apparently ill during carriage to receive veterinary treatment.

When feasible, arrangements must be made to remove or separate sick or dead animals from cages carrying multiple animals in transit. Such action must only be taken in consultation with the most expert advice available. Certain national authorities impose regulations which cover the examination and disposal of animals which have died during transit.

Rooms or areas at airports in which animals are held must be disinfected every 24 hours if used for regular accommodation of animals. Guidance must be sought as to the most suitable disinfectants and insecticides available locally for this purpose to avoid any risk of harming the animals. Animals must not be held in the area during cleansing processes.

## Chapter 8—Container Requirements

### 8.1 General Requirements

#### 8.1.1 Construction Requirements

For general transport purposes, animals will be carried only in closed containers; carriage in open stall must be especially arranged with the carriers concerned.

It is essential that containers be well constructed. Dimensions, where stated, are length, width and height. Dimensions shown in these Regulations are only illustrative. They must be related to the actual size of the animal for which the container is constructed and also reflect the ventilation and welfare requirements for the species concerned.

Although few limitations exist for freighter aircraft, such factors as the size of the compartment door and area of the aircraft hold determines the acceptability of live animal consignments. Consequently this must be considered when determining the size of the container to be used, in accordance with the principles of design outlined in this chapter when routing the consignment.

The appropriate container requirement for individual species must be consulted. Certain species require either reinforced containers due to size and weight while others need lined or metal containers due to

their destructive capabilities. The container requirement will be relevant to the species concerned and the principles of design must be adhered to for that species.

It must be easy for staff to handle. Spacer devices must be incorporated into the design as they will provide handles for moving the container as well as prevent the ventilation apertures becoming blocked by other freight. Handles may be attached in addition to the spacer bars.

It must give the handlers protection from being clawed or bitten by the animal.

If forklift spacers are required they must be at least 5 cm (2 in) thick. Allowance for the extra height must be made when calculating the dimensions of the container.

#### 8.1.2 Ventilation Requirements

The container must be adequately ventilated on three sides, with the majority of the ventilation being provided on the upper part of the container, but note must be taken that there are exceptions to these usual requirements which are stated in the container requirement for that particular species.

Note:

Requirements for ventilation, strength, etc. are different for shipment of one or two animals as opposed to bulk shipment.

#### 8.1.3 Safety Requirements

The container must be suitable to keep the animal inside at all times.

It must protect the animal from unauthorised access, i.e. the doors must be constructed so that accidental opening cannot occur, either from the inside or the outside, and the ventilation apertures must be small enough to prevent the protrusion of any part of the animal.

It must be able to withstand other freight damaging it or causing the structure to buckle or bend. Joints of wooden containers must be made so that they cannot be damaged by the animal gnawing or clawing the container from the inside.

It must be rigid enough to prevent the animal escaping through gaps at the seams or joints.

It must not cause the animal to damage itself, i.e. all inside edges must be smooth or rounded. There must be no sharp projections (such as nails) upon which the animal could hurt itself. The ventilation apertures must be small enough to prevent any part of the animal to protrude from the container.

#### 8.1.4 Animal Welfare and Health Requirements

Each container must be suitable for the species being transported.

It must in general allow the animal to stand, turn and lie down in a natural manner. There are a few exceptions to this rule found in the container requirement for the species concerned. In bird containers

there must be sufficient perch space for each individual, and enough height for the bird to perch with its head upright and its tail clear off the floor. Non-perching birds must be able to stand upright except in the case of pheasants. In the case of animals travelling in sealed solid-wall outer containers, e.g., ornamental fish and other aquatic species requiring total immersion in water to support life, whose welfare would be compromised by carriers' opening the outer containers, the outer containers should ordinarily remain sealed for the whole duration of the transportation process. If difficulties arise either local expert assistance should be obtained or the containers should be taken to their destination as rapidly as possible.

Note:

States may require the physical inspection of the contents of shipments tendered by shippers meeting a specific state mandated criteria as determined by the transporting carrier.

It must be clean and, if being reused, it must have been thoroughly disinfected or sterilised.

It must be leak-proof, absorbent bedding must be provided by the shipper that is suitable for the species. Straw is unacceptable as many countries prohibit its importation.

It must be constructed of non-toxic materials. Chemically impregnated wood may be poisonous, as are soldered tin water containers.

Note:

Wooden crates entering the United States of America from countries other than Canada and the adjacent border states in Mexico must be constructed with wood packing materials that is totally free of bark, except for plywood. Such responsibility lies strictly with the importer of the shipment.

For other species which are obviously disturbed by the shipment, reducing the light within the container and the noise level within its vicinity will usually be sufficient to quieten the animal. Pets are best left by their owners at the time of acceptance in order that they can become quietly accustomed to the strange surroundings. They must preferably be held in a darkened area and with as little noise as possible nearby.

#### 8.1.5 Food and Water Requirements

Food and water containers must be provided, either fixed inside the container or attached to it with a means of access provided, in case of undue delays during the journey. These containers must have rounded edges and be made of non-toxic materials suitable for the species. Shippers instructions for feeding and watering must be given in writing at the time of acceptance.

Food must be provided by the shipper but it must be checked that it does not contravene any regulations of the country (ies) of transit or importation. In the case of sealed containers, feeding is not possible and the shipper must be aware of this fact. Likewise, products of animal origin, such as meat or food containing meat, must not be accepted inside the container for the same reason.

Unauthorised food must not be offered.

## 8.2 Stocking Densities

### 8.2.1 General Considerations

When calculating stocking rates the following variables must be taken into account:

- it is essential that accurate weights of animals are obtained in view of the weight limitations imposed by the load capabilities of the aircraft and the space required per animal;
- in two-tier penning there is loss of floor area in the upper tier due to the contour of the plane and the overall height limitation;
- pallets may not fill the plane completely and the available space will be less than the total area of aircraft;
- ambient temperatures in relation to the ventilation capacity of the aircraft at loading and stopovers;
- special attention must be paid to the transport of sheep in heavy wool which require reduced stocking density and pigs which have limited ability to dissipate heat;
- animals confined in groups, especially in pens, must be stocked at a density high enough to prevent injuries at take-off, during turbulence and at landing, but not to the extent that individual animals cannot lie down and rise unaided without risk of injury or crushing;
- when carrying bulk loads of animals the following points must also be taken into consideration when determining the suitability of the aircraft being used:

–fresh air ventilation,

–calculation of fresh air ventilation requirements,

–humidity (content of water in the air),

–the ability to extract carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>);

- unless all these points can be satisfied, consideration must not be given to the bulk carriage of animals on the aircraft.

### 8.2.2 Stocking Density Guidelines for Calves, Cattle, Pigs and Sheep

8.2.2 - Amendment - Stocking Density Guidelines for Calves, Cattle, Pigs and Sheep

Note:

A 10% decrease in stocking density is recommended for trips in excess of 24 hours

(Table didn't copy)

### 8.2.3 Stocking Density Guidelines for Horses

#### STOCKING DENSITY FOR HORSES IN RELATION TO FLOOR AREA

WeightSpace per HorseWeightSpace per Horse

kglbm<sup>2</sup> ft<sup>2</sup> kglbm<sup>2</sup> ft<sup>2</sup>

0–1000–220 0.424.52401–500880–11001.1912.81

101–200221–4400.667.10501–6001101–1320 1.3414.42

201–300441–6600.879.36601–7001321–15401.5116.25

301–400661–8801.0411.19701–8001541–17601.7318.62

Note:

These figures originate from the Council of Europe Code of Conduct for the International Transport of Horses, Appendix C-Transportation by Air.

Code of Conduct for the transport of pigs, cattle, sheep, goat, poultry and horses by air is available from:

Council of Europe

P.O. Box 431

RG F-67006 Strasbourg Cedex

France