

Title	IMDG Code 2016 / SUPPLEMENT / IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for Packing Cargo Transport Units / Preamble
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Note	Incorporating Amendment 35-10

Preamble

While the use of freight containers, swap-bodies, vehicles or other cargo transport units substantially reduces the physical hazards to which cargoes are exposed, improper or careless packing of cargoes into/onto such units, or lack of proper blocking, bracing and securing, may be the cause of personnel injury when they are handled or transported. In addition, serious and costly damage may occur to the cargo or to the equipment. The person who packs and secures cargo into/onto the cargo transport unit (CTU) may be the last person to look inside the unit until it is opened by the consignee at its final destination.

Consequently, a great many people in the transport chain will rely on the skill of such persons, including:

road vehicle drivers and other highway users when the unit is transported;

rail workers, and others, when the unit is transported by rail;

crew members of inland waterway vessels when the unit is transported on inland waterways;

handling staff at inland terminals when the unit is transferred from one transport mode to another;

dock workers when the unit is loaded or discharged;

crew members of the ship which may be taking the unit through its most severe conditions during the transport operation;

those who unpack the unit.

All persons, such as the above and passengers, may be at risk from a poorly packed container, swap-body or vehicle, particularly one which is carrying dangerous cargoes.