BUYER HANDBOOK

Vehicles & Recreation Container Buyer Handbook

A conversion-ready field reference for choosing size, condition, site and delivered scope without skipping exact-plan verification.

THE VERIFICATION GATES

01	**Exact dimensions** Control vehicle fit, door opening, mirror clearance and driver exit.
02	**Manufacturer guidance** Controls battery, fuel, tire and long-term preservation decisions.
03	**Site and carrier** Confirm supports, delivery route, ramp and loading approach.
04	**Qualified design** Controls side openings, electrical work, conditioning and rated racks.

Planning resource only. Verify the exact container, contents, delivery route, site and current requirements before purchase, loading, modification or use.

START WITH THE OPERATING PROBLEM

Measure the fit. Protect the vehicle. Keep access usable.

Plan dimensions, loading, moisture, security and long-term ownership before storing a vehicle in steel.

NOMINAL SIZE COMPARISON

Standard exterior height: 8FT 6IN | High Cube exterior height: 9FT 6IN

Exact interior and door dimensions vary. Verify the exact unit.

THE FOUR-GATE DECISION

Do not let nominal volume decide alone.

DECISION	VERIFY	WHY IT MATTERS
Contents	Dimensions, weight, sensitivity and compatibility	Controls size, layout and environmental needs
Site	Route, ground, drainage and working clearance	Controls delivery and daily usability
Operation	Access, retrieval, inspection and security	Controls whether storage saves time
Approval	Confirm supports, delivery route, ramp and loading approach.	Controls what is permitted for the exact plan

FIT & ACCESS

Four fit & access decisions before delivery.

01 | Vehicle storage guide

Measure the exact vehicle and exact container, including door opening and human exit space. Then plan the site and preservation routine around the vehicle manufacturer guidance.

FIELD NOTE	A car fitting through the opening does not prove the driver can exit or the vehicle can be serviced.

02 | 20FT car fit

Some compact vehicles fit dimensionally, but usable clearance can be tight. Verify the exact unit, vehicle and loading method before purchase.

FIELD NOTE	Use measured clearances, not vehicle class names or nominal container dimensions.

03 | 40FT vehicle layout

A 40FT unit adds nominal floor area, but a single short-end door can still limit independent access. Design the retrieval sequence before loading.

FIELD NOTE	Longer does not solve narrow access or blocked vehicles.

04 | Door and exit clearance

Measure the exact door opening, vehicle width and the side space required to exit safely. Consider qualified access modifications when standard doors are impractical.

FIELD NOTE	Never rely on a photo that hides the clearance beside the vehicle.

SITE & DELIVERY

Four site & delivery decisions before delivery.

01 | Site access

Plan both the delivery truck path and the vehicle loading path. Have the carrier approve the unload area and keep the finished approach stable and clear.

FIELD NOTE	A site can accept the container but still provide a poor vehicle entry angle.

02 | Level support

Use stable, level support at the structural bearing points based on soil, container, vehicle and local requirements.

FIELD NOTE	Do not assume a driveway or a few blocks are adequate for every loaded condition.

03 | Ramp planning

Use a properly rated ramp with secure placement and adequate approach clearance. Verify low ground clearance and tire path before loading.

FIELD NOTE	Improvised boards or unrestrained ramps can shift under load.

04 | Door orientation

Align the doors with a straight, stable loading path and preserve room for both cargo doors to open and be secured.

FIELD NOTE	A visually convenient orientation can create a difficult reverse path or blocked door swing.

PRESERVATION

Four preservation decisions before delivery.

01 | Condensation control

Store the vehicle clean and dry, stop water entry, separate it from ground moisture and use ventilation or dehumidification based on measured conditions.

FIELD NOTE	A steel container can experience condensation. Desiccant alone is not a universal long-term plan.

02 | Heat and ventilation

Follow vehicle and product manufacturer limits. Use measured temperature and humidity to decide whether insulation, ventilation or active conditioning is needed.

FIELD NOTE	A vented container is not automatically temperature-controlled.

03 | Battery care

Follow the vehicle and battery manufacturer instructions. Use qualified electrical work and do not improvise charging in an unapproved enclosed space.

FIELD NOTE	Battery chemistry, ventilation and charging equipment change the risk.

04 | Fuel and fire safety

Follow the owner manual and applicable fire and environmental rules. Never run an engine inside the container and keep ignition sources controlled.

FIELD NOTE	A steel shell does not make fuel or vapor hazards disappear.

SECURITY

Four security decisions before delivery.

01 | Locks and lockboxes

Use compatible commercial-grade locks and a lockbox when appropriate, then add controlled keys, lighting and site visibility.

FIELD NOTE	A high-value vehicle needs layered security, not only a padlock.

02 | Cameras and lighting

Test the view after dark, control glare and preserve recordings according to the property security plan.

FIELD NOTE	A camera hidden by open cargo doors can miss the loading event.

03 | Key and inventory control

Store keys separately when appropriate, limit access and photograph the vehicle, serials and stored accessories before closing.

FIELD NOTE	Do not leave a complete theft package, vehicle and keys, in one uncontrolled place.

04 | Discreet placement

Choose a legal, observable position that does not advertise contents while keeping doors and approaches visible to authorized users.

FIELD NOTE	Hidden from everyone can also mean hidden from useful oversight.

RECREATION GEAR

Four recreation gear decisions before delivery.

01 | Motorcycles and ATVs

Measure machines and service clearances, follow manufacturer storage guidance and keep riding gear on rated shelving away from vehicle movement.

FIELD NOTE	Do not use transport tie-down assumptions as a substitute for stationary storage planning.

02 | Bikes and kayaks

Use rated racks anchored through an approved design, keep heavy items low and protect clear access to release points.

FIELD NOTE	Do not suspend equipment from unverified thin wall panels or improvised hooks.

03 | Trailers and camping gear

Plan each item around its manufacturer storage requirements and keep a clear retrieval order for the next trip.

FIELD NOTE	Wet tents, fuel containers and charging batteries need different controls.

04 | Seasonal rotation

Create front, side-rack and reserve zones tied to the calendar, then update the inventory after each rotation.

FIELD NOTE	A good fall layout may be a bad spring retrieval plan.

MODIFICATIONS

Four modifications decisions before delivery.

01 | Side-opening access

Use a professionally engineered and fabricated side-opening design with local approval, weather sealing and suitable door hardware.

FIELD NOTE	Cutting a long sidewall changes structure and must not be improvised.

02 | Lighting and power

Use qualified electrical design, permits and listed equipment. Keep cords, fixtures and panels clear of vehicle movement and moisture.

FIELD NOTE	Temporary cords are not a permanent power system.

03 | Tire and parts racks

Use appropriately rated racks, secure round items and keep chemicals in approved compatible storage outside the vehicle path.

FIELD NOTE	Heavy tires high on improvised shelves create a falling-object hazard.

04 | Insulated and conditioned

Start with target temperature and humidity ranges from manufacturer or preservation guidance, then have qualified professionals design the envelope and equipment.

FIELD NOTE	Insulation without moisture design can hide condensation rather than solve it.

OPERATIONS

Four operations decisions before delivery.

01 | Vehicle loading

Use a clear loading zone, rated equipment and a competent spotter. Follow the vehicle manual and never run the engine inside longer than required for safe positioning.

FIELD NOTE	Keep all people out of pinch points between the vehicle, doors and container walls.

02 | Stabilization

Follow the vehicle manual for parking and stabilization. Use appropriate wheel controls on a level surface and obtain separate professional advice for any transported load.

FIELD NOTE	Stationary storage and highway cargo securement are different tasks.

03 | Monthly inspection

Inspect roof, seals, supports, drainage, locks, temperature or humidity records, pests, tires and visible leaks. Correct exceptions promptly.

FIELD NOTE	A locked container should not become an unobserved container.

04 | Storm planning

Follow qualified local guidance, close and secure doors, clear drainage and move loose exterior items before conditions become unsafe.

FIELD NOTE	A container is not automatically a storm shelter or a guarantee against flood damage.

OWNERSHIP

Four ownership decisions before delivery.

01 | Buy vs rent

Buying can suit long-term on-site use and custom access when the property supports it. Compare the complete ownership scenario with rental restrictions and return costs.

FIELD NOTE	Include site work, maintenance, insurance and exit value in the model.

02 | Property rules

Get written approval for the location, duration, appearance, access and intended contents from the relevant decision-makers.

FIELD NOTE	Owning the property does not remove every local rule.

03 | Insurance and records

Ask the insurer about location, storage conditions, modifications and security. Keep current photos, serials and inventories outside the unit.

FIELD NOTE	Container ownership does not automatically extend vehicle or property coverage.

04 | Resale and repurpose

Use a qualified carrier, disclose alterations and seek new approval before changing to an occupied or materially different use.

FIELD NOTE	A side-opening or conditioned unit may have a different market and transport plan than a standard unit.

PRIMARY REFERENCES AND LIMITS

Traceable boundaries, not borrowed certainty.

Use the current version of every source and confirm the exact rule with the authority or qualified party that controls the decision.

Hapag-Lloyd container specification

https://static-cf.hapag-lloyd.com/content/dam/website/downloads/press_and_media/publications/15211_Container_Specification_engl_Gesamt_web.pdf

NHTSA secure your load guidance

https://www.nhtsa.gov/drive-safe-secure-your-load

OSHA 1910.176 material handling and storage

https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.176

GENERAL LIMIT

Container specifications vary by manufacturer, type, age and exact unit. Site, contents, climate, carrier equipment and local requirements also vary. This document is a planning aid and does not authorize the exact purchase, site, load, modification or use.