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MCO 4680.5A  
LPO  
31 August 95

MARINE CORPS ORDER 4680.5A

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: Distribution List

Subj: CONTAINERIZATION POLICY

Ref: (a) MCO 4600.30

Encl: (1) Marine Corps Containerization Policy  
(2) Related References

1. Purpose. To publish Marine Corps containerization policy.
2. Cancellation. MCO 4680.5.
3. Background. Substantial portions of the Marine Corps Assault Follow-On Echelon (AFOE), Maritime Prepositioning Ships (MPS), and follow-on sustainment supplies will be transported in 20-foot International Organization for Standardization (ISO) containers. The policy, guidance, and information contained in this Order are intended to standardize and enhance usage and define responsibilities of Marine Forces and supporting establishment commanders pertaining to ISO containers and container throughout systems.
4. Information
  - a. This Order consolidates policies pertinent to container and containerization as determined by the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) and as contained in the reference and other guidance provided by the Department of Defense. A compilation of these policies is located at enclosure (1).
  - b. Enclosure (2) provides a list of related references.

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MCO 4680.5A  
31 Aug 95

c. As used throughout this Order, the term container refers to an ISO container.

5. Action

a. The policy contained in this Order will be incorporated into the Marine Corps series of plans (Marine Corps Capabilities Plan, Marine Corps Campaign Plan, and the Marine Corps Master Plan).

b. Any comments/recommendations concerning this Order will be sent to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (LPO-3) through the normal chain of command.

6. Reserve Applicability. This Order is applicable to the Marine Corps Reserve.

  
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Deputy Chief of Staff  
for Installations and Logistics

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MARINE CORPS CONTAINERIZATION POLICY

1. Goals

a. The Marine Corps goal is to optimize the use of containers to improve the utilization of strategic lift, improve force closure for unit equipment and sustainment supplies, improve field warehousing, and improve materiel distribution.

b. Specific containerization goals contained in the Marine Corps Capabilities Plan are to:

(1) develop doctrine for the use and management of containers to move supplies ashore, and warehouse and distribute their contents.

(2) develop and incorporate containerization planning and usage training into CSS formal schools.

(3) increase containerization capability that is all-service compatible in support of both land and sea based operations.

(4) increase containerization and enhance material handling facilities and equipment especially those located on or near container marshaling and control sites.

(5) identify throughput requirements and capabilities for moving containers by road, rail, and sea.

2. Objectives

a. Optimize the use of intermodal containers from origin to destination to support peacetime operations, deliberate planning actions, and crisis response.

b. Develop standard container systems to increase efficiency in container management, storage, and handling equipment.

ENCLOSURE (1)

31 Aug 95

3. Policy

a. The 20-foot-long by 8-foot-wide ISO container is the primary container for the Marine Corps during development. (NOTE: container height varies; e.g., 8.5 feet, 4.5 feet, etc.) Although 40-foot containers may be received in theater port areas through common-user resupply channels, they will not normally be pushed to units in forward areas. The Marine Corps does not currently have the optimum equipment capability to handle 40-foot containers.

b. Container Management

(1) Marine Corps container requirements will be developed as part of the MAGTF commander's deliberate planning process and satisfied by leasing containers from commercial sources and through limited procurement.

(2) Marine Corps procurement of containers is limited to the numbers required to meet training and initial surge deployment requirements that cannot be met by the timely lease of commercial containers. Authorization to procure commercial ISO containers above the quantity required for training and initial 15-day surge deployment requirements will be submitted to the CMC (L) for approval. As an exception to this policy, the Commander Marine Corps Logistics Bases (COMMARCORLOGBASES) is authorized to procure containers used for the Maritime Prepositioning Ships (MPS) that are unique; i.e., not for common-user service, of the Maritime Prepositioning Force (MPF) Program.

(3) Containers used for MPS are unique to the MPF program and are managed separately by the COMMARCORLOGBASES.

(4) Requirements for Marine Corps-owned containers, including specially configured containers (such as containers with interior bins to stock spare parts and other supplies), will be determined using the same procedures as other tactical equipment in the Combat Development Process (CDP).

ENCLOSURE (1)

31 Aug 95

(5) Marine Corps-owned containers will be assigned a separate Table of Authorized Material Control Number by the CMC (LPP) and managed as other tactical equipment.

(6) Aviation containers, called Mobile Facilities (MF), and shelters are procured and managed by the Navy in accordance with NAVAIRINST 13670.1, "Naval Air Systems Command Mobile Facility Program."

c. Container Leasing

(1) All commercial container lease requirements must be coordinated with the installation base/station traffic management officer (TMO) who will send the requirements to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Traffic Management Branch (LFT-1), 2 Navy Annex, Washington, DC 20380-1775. Once received, all pertinent information will be forwarded to the Commander, Military Sealift Command (COMSC) to initiate contractual arrangements with container vendors. COMSC will arrange for all CONUS inspections of containers being leased or offhired. Overseas leased/offhired containers must be inspected by certified USMC container inspectors to ensure adherence to quality standards.

(a) As containers may not be locally available, TMO's should coordinate with all units on the amount of lead time required to secure leased assets.

(b) The CMC (LFT) and COMSC need as much advance notice as possible to meet requirements. Paragraph 3c(3) provides more specific data relative to submission requirements.

(2) All requests for leased containers should contain the following information:

(a) Quantity and Types of Units Required (20' dry containers, 20' reefers, 20' chassis, 40' dry containers, 40' chassis, gensets (clip-on or underslung), number of spare part kits for each type of reefer).

ENCLOSURE (1)

MCO 4680.5A  
31 Aug 95

(b) Delivery Location Data (complete address required, points of contact including phone numbers, who will spot containers at delivery location (contractor, government, other), hours of operation, number of containers which can be accepted per day).

(c) Required Delivery Data (RDD) for Units (explain if RDD varies with equipment required).

(3) Once the above information is passed to COMSC, they will provide the CMC (LFT-1) with an estimated cost to lease containers/equipment to and from origin/destination and estimated repair costs. The requesting activity must prepare and forward a [NAVCOMPT Form 2275](#), Order for Work and Services, to the following address: Commander, Military Sealift Command, Attn: Code N81, 901 M Street SE, Washington Navy Yard, Building 210, Washington, DC 20398. A fax copy of [NAVCOMPT Form 2275](#) may be forwarded to COMSC at 202-685-5852. A copy of [NAVCOMPT Form 2275](#) should also be forwarded to the CMC (LFT-1). No action to lease containers/equipment can be taken by COMSC until the funding document is received. To obtain containers when required, COMSC must be notified at least 30 days in advance for CONUS activities and 45 days in advance for overseas activities. Requests for leased containers/equipment outside the 30-45-day rule may result in rejection of the request.

(4) To ensure expeditious processing of each request, TMO's should ensure all required information is accurately reported.

(5) Disposition instructions for empty containers will be provided by the CMC (LFT-1) when notification is received from the TMO that leased containers are available for return to the lessor. TMO's should inspect all leased containers and annotate damages (if any).

d. Container Certification. The Convention for Safe Containers (CSC), Public Law 95-208, and the Code of Federal

ENCLOSURE (1)

Regulations require ISO containers (including Marine Corps table of equipment items equipped with ISO fittings) be recertified for serviceability 5 years from manufacture/in-service date and every 30 months thereafter.

(1) The Marine Forces Atlantic and Pacific; Marine Forces Reserve; Marine Corps Logistics Bases (MARCORLOGBASES); and other supporting establishment commands that contract for or handle containers will have personnel trained and qualified to inspect and recertify ISO containers and equipment. This function may be commercially contracted.

(2) Marine personnel who certify ISO containers and equipment must attend a 3-day Intermodal Dry Cargo Container Convention for Safe Container (CSC) Reinspection Course at the U.S. Army Defense Ammunition Center and School, Savanna, IL.

e. Design for Containerization

(1) Containerization will be considered when designing tactical equipment.

(a) Design container compatible equipment, as appropriate, to maximize container stuffing.

(b) Design equipment as appropriate (e.g., reefer boxes, water purification units, etc.) with ISO fittings.

(2) Container handling equipment (CHE) and other container throughout systems will be designed to meet containerization requirements.

f. Container Operations and Training

(1) To the greatest extent feasible, deploying MAGTF's should be relieved of the requirement to use organic deploying materiel handling equipment (MHE)/CHE to load and transfer containers when preparing for

ENCLOSURE (1)

MCO 4680.5A  
31 Aug 95

embarkation. MHE/CHE from the supporting establishment, adjacent FMF units, and/or commercial sources should be used in lieu of deployment MHE/CHE.

(2) Containers will be stuffed at origin to the maximum extent possible, or at the nearest container consolidation point.

(3) Containers will be unstuffed as far forward in the theater of operations as practical.

(4) Remain behind personnel, reservists, and/or contract personnel may be used to assist in container throughout operations; e.g., stuffing, marshaling, etc.

(5) Containers will be used in peacetime to train for war, meet peacetime transportation requirements, and reduce transportation costs.

(6) MAGTF II/Logistics Automated Information Systems (MAGTF II/LOGAIS provides cargo monitoring and managing capability from origin to destination via LOGMARS and the Transportation Coordinator's Automated Information for Movement System (TC-AIMS). When used to support deployment/redeployment, operations, marked or tagged unit supplies and equipment should be in accordance with MCO 4000.51, AIT Policy Manual. This will greatly enhance asset tracking, total asset visibility, and in-transit visibility efforts.

(7) Container transportation documentation will be per DoD 4500.32-R (MILSTAMP). Export traffic releases will be prepared per MCO P4600.14 (DTMR), vol 1). Information regarding an installations' shipping and receiving capabilities can be obtained through MCO P4600.14 (DTMR vol 2 thru 4).

#### 4. Responsibilities

##### a. Commandant of the Marine Corps

(1) Logistics Plans, and Operations Branch (LPO)

ENCLOSURE (1)

31 Aug 95

(a) Serve as the focal point for Marine Corps containerization policy.

(b) Develop and maintain the Marine Corps Container Master Action Plan.

(c) Maintain this Order.

(d) Chair semi-annual Marine Corps Container Working Group (MCCWG) meetings. The MCCWG will:

1 disseminate information gathered at the United States Transportation Command sponsored semi-annual Joint Intermodal Container Working Group (JICWG).

2 provide a forum for the discussion of JICWG "askings and accomplishments. The MCCWG is charged with developing a recommended Marine Corps position and a Plan of Action and Milestones for review by the CMC (LP).

3 increase operating force and supporting establishment understanding of containerization, intermodalism, and the ever increasing importance of containerization to Marine Corps strategic mobility.

(2) Traffic Management Branch (LFT)

(a) Serve as the focal point for Marine Corps container leasing requirements.

(b) Coordinate base/station container leasing requirements with the Commander, Military Sealift Command.

b. Commander, Marine Forces Atlantic/Pacific, and Commander, Marine Forces Reserve

(1) Identify requirements for Marine Corps-owned containers and container transport and handling equipment to the

ENCLOSURE (1)

MCO 4680.5A  
31 Aug 95

Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command per MCO 3900.4 (USMC Program Initiation Requirements Documentation).

(2) Identify requirements for leased containers for exercises and contingencies to the base/station commander.

(3) Determine requirements for and procure blocking, bracing, and restraining materials per MCO P4030.23 (Instructional Guide to Basic Military Packaging and Preservation).

(4) Incorporate container employment (e.g., stuffing and bracing, handling and transport, control and distribution, and unstuffing (to include damage assessment and prevention)) in training exercises and operations.

(5) Inspect, recertify, and report the status of organically owed containers as directed by the Marine Corps Container Control Office (CCO), MCLB, Albany.

(6) Train units to use containers (e.g., determine requirements; block, brace, and tiedown; etc.) and CHE.

(7) Appoint a container control officer to centrally maintain and disseminate container information, and be responsive to the Marine Corps Container Office at MARCORLOGBASES.

(8) Provide "lessons learned" on container use per MCO 5000.17 (USMC Lessons Learned) to the Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command (Director, Warfighting Center) for further consideration, dissemination, and standardization, as appropriate.

(9) Incorporate containerization related initiatives into JCS/CINC level exercises to the maximum extent possible.

(10) Ensure containerized cargo is properly identified in deployment databases for deliberate planning and crisis response.

ENCLOSURE (1)

(11) Provide base/station TMO with anticipated container requirements to support operation plans (OPLAN).

(12) Establish a container inspection program.

c. Commanding General. Marine Corps Combat Development Command

(1) Validate Marine Force (MARFOR) commanders' requirements and forward them, as appropriate, to the Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command for procurement action per MCO 3900.4 and MCO P5000.22 (Implementation of Defense Acquisition Management Policies, Procedures, Documentation, and Reports).

(2) Develop and promulgate doctrine and operational procedures/techniques, as required, in consonance with Marine Corps and Department of Defense container policy. Initial publication of Marine Corps container doctrine, procedures, and techniques is expected within 12 months of the date of this Order.

(3) Ensure containerization training is incorporated for applicable military occupational specialties in existing and future training standards and course curriculums.

(4) Establish container allowances.

d. Commander. Marine Corps Systems Command

(1) Develop, forward, and update appropriation documentation.

(2) Develop and update program documentation (i.e., Integrated Logistics Support Plan, Acquisition Program Baseline Agreement, Integrated Program Summary, Letter of Adoption and Procurement, Acquisition Plan).

ENCLOSURE (1)

(3) Develop and forward solicitation package to prospective bidders.

(4) Procure and field containers, including military standard refrigeration units for containers, and container systems, container transport, and MHE/CHE, as required.

(5) Develop and forward the Users Logistical Support Summary (ULSS).

e. Commander, Marine Corps Logistics Bases, Albany

(1) Manage the Marine Corps Container Control Office.

(2) Perform item management duties pertaining to Marine Corps-owned containers, including MPF container procurement and technical management encompassing inventory management, logistics support, and container inspection, recertification, and promulgation of first and second echelon maintenance guidance procedures.

(3) Prepare and maintain a Marine Corps Technical Manual (TM) which addresses container management procedures. Coordinate with the Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, as appropriate.

(4) Provide guidance to the MARFOR and base/station commanders on proper container inspection and recertification standards and procedures.

(5) Identify the level of in stores war reserve materiel stocks which can be moved as containerized cargo in each supported OPLAN's time-phased force and deployment data and War Reserve Withdrawal Plan.

(6) Develop and implement an automated system or subsystem for tracking Marine Corps-owned containers by type, prefix, serial number,

ENCLOSURE (1)

31 Aug 95

length, width, height, owner, location, readiness status, and CSC inspection date.

(7) Conduct annual inventories of Marine Corps-owned ISO containers. Validate the results of the inventory with the contents of the DoD-Owned Container Registry. Submit recommended updates to the Registry via the CMC (LPO), to the Container Fleet Division (CFD), Military Traffic Management Command - Eastern Area (MTMC-EA) annually, as required.

(8) Act as the single point of contact for requesting/deleting ISO serial numbers from the DoD Container Registry maintained by CFD, MTMC-EA, Bayonne, New Jersey.

(9) Procure freight containers for the MPF Program, as required.

f. Base and Station Commanders

(1) Submit all requests for commercial leased containers to the CMC (LFT) for action. Once requests are received, the CMC (LFT) will forward them to the Commander, Military Sealift Command (COMSC). Information copies of all requests must be provided to the applicable MEF, the CMC (LPO), and COMMARCORLOGBASES, Albany (CODE 80).

(2) Ensure container outloading capability will support the tenant MARFOR commander's OPLAN(s) requirements.

(a) Determine and program facility requirements to support container outloading requirements.

(b) Evaluate the availability of commercial MHE/CHE, to include garrison mobile equipment, to meet contingency, mobilization, and surge requirements of the deploying MAGTF's.

(c) Contract and/or lease commercial MHE/CHE to support the loading and transfer of containers.

ENCLOSURE (1)

(3) Prepare installation outload plans as appendixes to the MARFOR supporting plan for each major OPLAN.

(4) Update and report installation outload capabilities as outlined in MCO 4810.1 (CONUS Military Installation Materiel Outloading and Receiving Capability Report).

(5) Provide technical assistance concerning procedures for stuffing containers including procedures for handling hazardous material.

(6) Inspect and recertify containers, as appropriate, using the guidance provided by the Marine Corps CCO, MCLB, Albany.

(7) Train units to use containers (e.g., determine requirements; block, brace, and tiedown; etc.) and CHE.

(8) Establish a container inspection program.

(9) Appoint a container control officer to centrally maintain and disseminate container information, and be responsive to the Marine Corps Container Office at MARCORLOGBASES.

g. MAGTF Commander in the Theater of Operations

(1) Move containerized cargo to support the concept of operations and applicable theater logistics instructions.

(2) Containers may be potentially used for field warehousing, if deemed an operational necessity, upon approval of the MAGTF commander. Such use should be generally discouraged unless operational requirements dictate otherwise. An adequate theater pool of containers is essential to meet future transportation requirements including regeneration.

(3) Assess requirement for commercial containers to efficiently distribute supplies and equipment within the MAGTF

ENCLOSURE (1)

31 Aug 95

area of responsibility. Leased commercial containers in excess of the requirements shall be retrograded to CONUS for return to commercial container vendors (owners).

(4) Ensure accountability is maintained for Marine Corps-owned and commercial-leased containers within the theater of operations. Accountability of these assets should include type, prefix, serial number, owner, location, length, width, height, and CSC inspection date.

(5) Containers will not be used for bunkers, underground storage, etc.

ENCLOSURE (1)

RELATED REFERENCES

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Title</u>
DoD 4500.XX-R (Draft) Volumes I & II	Management and Control of the DOD Intermodal Container System
DoD 4500.32-R	MILSTAMP
Joint Pub 4-01.5	Joint Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for Water Terminal Operations
Joint Pub 4-01.7	Joint Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for the use of Intermodal Containers in Joint Operations
MCP	Marine Corps Capabilities Plan
MCMP	Marine Corps Master Plan
MCO 3900.4	USMC Program Initiation Requirements Documentation
MCO 4030.23	Instructional Guide to Basic Military Packaging and Preservation
MCO P4600.14	DTMR
MCO 4600.30	Intermediate Containers, Special Vans, and Tactical Shelters
MCO 4810.1	CONUS Military Installation Materiel Outloading and Receiving Capability Report
MCO 5000.17	USMC Lessons Learned

ENCLOSURE (2)

MCO 4680.5A  
31 Aug 95

MCO 5000.22

Implementation of Defense Acquisition  
Management Policies

NAVAIRINST 13670.1A

Naval Air Systems Command Mobile Facility  
Program

FM 55-60

Army Terminal Operations

FMRP 4-17

Intermodal Containerization in the MAGTF

CH 7-8

Deployment of the Assault Follow-On Echelon  
(AFOE)

MTMC Pamphlet 55-13

DoD Container Delivery System

MTMCTEA Reference  
94-700-5

Deployment Planning Guide:  
Transportation Assets Required for  
Deployment

TM 55-2200-001-12

Transportability Guidance, Application of  
Blocking, Bracing, and Tiedown Material for  
Rail

DD-M(A) 1592

Container System Hardware

MILHDBK 138A

Container Inspection Handbook for Commercial  
and Military Intermodal Containers

ISO Standards Handbook 34

Freight Containers

International Standard  
ISO 6346 Ref No ISO6346-1984E

Freight Containers-Coding, Identification  
and Marking

ABS 68

Guide for the Certification of Dry Cargo  
Containers

ENCLOSURE (2)