



NOTICE TO THE TRADE

DATE: April 27, 2023

ATTENTION: All Participants in P.L. 480 Title II Food Aid Shipments

SUBJECT: Bag - Stowage in Containers

This notice is to advise commodity suppliers, ocean carriers and subcontractors handling the loading of bagged commodities in containers, that the following container loading and stowage protocols are effective on all new USAID associated solicitations from 1st May 2023 for bagged food commodities.

1. All 50 kg and smaller bag loads of food aid cargo when being stuffed in containers should have an interlocking bag pile using full cross-tie stowage towards the door for a minimum of **FOUR** rows from the door.
2. The four rows of interlocking Bag pile height (using Cross-tie stowage) should not be less than the height of the previous three rows, so as to avoid spill over by the inner cargo layer of bags over the interlocking pile.
3. An illustration of the interlocking bag pile using Full Cross-tie stowage is described below, (Figure 1 - referenced as an example from the Container Handbook published by GDV – German Insurance Association and at:
https://www.containerhandbuch.de/chb_e/stra/index.html?chb_e/stra/stra_04_02_04_03.html).

Figure 1. Full cross-tie stowage

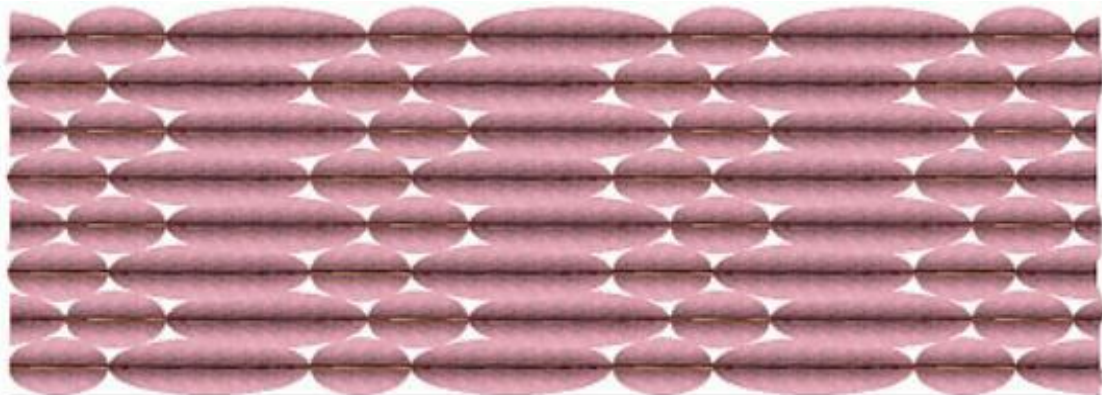


Figure 1

Example of cross-tie stowage of bags

Full Cross-Tie Stowage enables goods to be completely connected to the adjacent tiers: Cargo items in one tier extend half-way into the adjacent layer. Full cross tie stowage can be recognized by the fact that no continuous lines can be seen either longitudinally or transversely.

If bagged cargo is loaded in such a way that free-standing tiers remain at the edges, the seams or closures should point into the stack, as they are the weak points of the packaging. If this is not observed, bags can “bleed”, which in turn endangers stability of the full stack.

As described earlier, the Cross-tie stowage of bags should extend at least four rows from the door and be of a similar height to that of the previous three rows of bags from the door.

(Reference provided by WFP Risk Management)

https://www.containerhandbuch.de/chb_e/stra/index.html?chb_e/stra/stra_04_02_04_03.html).

Any questions concerning this Notice should be directed to the USAID Transportation Division at **m.oaa.tcmallistusaid@usaid.gov**