Overweight Container Guidelines for U.S. Inland Transportation

Containers that exceed standard weight thresholds may incur additional transportation charges when moving via rail and/or truck within the United States. To help you plan shipments efficiently, please review the overweight container guidelines below.

Important: Weight limits are based on the Total Combined Weight, which includes cargo payload and container tare weight

Overweight surcharges may apply when the total combined weight falls within specified inland transportation weight ranges. Detailed surcharge information is available in our tariff and can also be found in the **USA Local Charges & Service Fees** schedule **here**

The Maximum allowable U.S. Highway Transport Gross Cargo Weight Guidelines can be found **here**

Weight Limits in Metric Tons

U.S. Inland Transportation: Container Type	Truck	Rail		Combined Rail	
	Overweight Threshold	Overweight Threshold	Maximum Allowed Weight	Overweight Threshold	Maximum Allowed Weight
20'STD	20.131	20.131	23.995	20.131	23.995
20'RE	18.691	18.691	23.995	18.691	23.995
20'FR	20.471	20.471	23.995	20.471	23.995
20'OT	20.475	20.475	23.995	20.475	23.995
20'HT	20.771	20.771	23.995	20.771	23.995
40'STD	23.711	23.711	30.481	23.711	30.481
40'RE	22.471	22.471	30.481	22.471	30.481
40'FR	24.016	24.016	30.481	24.016	30.481
40'HT	23.497	23.497	30.481	23.497	30.481
40'OT	24.027	24.027	30.481	24.027	30.481
40'HC	23.721	23.721	30.481	23.721	30.481
45'RT	22.251	22.251	30.481	22.251	30.481

All weights are in Metric Tons

United States - Canada Cross-border Transportation

Container Type	Truck	Rail		Combined Rail	
	Overweight Threshold	Overweight Threshold	Maximum Allowed Weight	Overweight Threshold	Maximum Allowed Weight
*20' Import & Export (moves by Canadian rail)	20.131	23.971	27.21	20.131	27.21
20' & 40' Import & Export (moves by USA rail) - New York <-> Canada - Ohio <-> Canada	*Refer to the limits provided in the table above under 'US Inland Transportation' for applicable thresholds*				
40' Import & Export (excl. below lanes)	23.711	29.153	32.49	23.711	32.49
40' Export (Chicago / Detroit / Minneapolis **to** Montreal / Vancouver / Saint John)	23.711	29.153	30.966	23.711	32.49
40' Import (Montreal / Vancouver / Saint John **to** Chicago / Detroit / Minneapolis)	23.711	25.523	30.966	23.711	32.49

All weights are in Metric Tons

*** 20' Tank Containers**

Tank overweight is based on the **combined weight of cargo and tare weight**, as tanks are classified as bulk cargo.

- Maximum rail weight (CPKC & CN, all corridors): 23.995 metric tons
- Overweight surcharge applies: 21.728 to 23.995 metric tons
- Applicable surcharge amounts can be found in the Canada Local Charges & Service Fees schedule **here**

United States - Canada Cross-border Transportation (for period December 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027**)

Container Type	Truck	Rail		Combined Rail	
	Overweight Threshold	Overweight Threshold	Maximum Allowed Weight	Overweight Threshold	Maximum Allowed Weight
*20' Import (moves by Canadian rail)	20.131	23.971	27.21	20.131	27.21
**20' Export containers including tanks (moves by Canadian rail) - Chicago (CP)	20.131	23.971	23.971	20.131	23.971
20' & 40' Import & Export (moves by USA rail) - New York <-> Canada - Ohio <-> Canada	Refer to the limits provided in the table above under 'US Inland Transportation' for applicable thresholds				
40' Import & Export (excl. below lanes)	23.711	29.153	32.49	23.711	32.49
40' Export (Chicago / Detroit / Minneapolis **to** Montreal / Vancouver / Saint John)	23.711	29.153	30.966	23.711	32.49
40' Import (Montreal / Vancouver / Saint John **to** Chicago / Detroit / Minneapolis)	23.711	25.523	30.966	23.711	32.49

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During this period, CN and CPKC will strictly enforce weight restrictions for all 20' export containers moving via specified routes to port terminals across their networks. Please note that containers exceeding the maximum permitted weight will not be accepted, and no exceptions will be granted.