

## **Title: Use of Styrofoam and Cardboard for Cargo build-up**

### **Background:**

It has been a common practice for freight forwarders to use styrofoam/cardboard for prepacked ULD shipment for different purposes. Nevertheless, there has been an increasing trend in prepack rejection during CTO's cargo acceptance process, especially related to build up conditions with the use of styrofoam and cardboard. Double handling of such would be causing much inefficiency along the supply chain and freight forwarders are seeking clearer guidelines from airlines to enhance their build up quality accordingly at their end. Below are the recommended best practices for freight forwarders or their appointed build up agency companies to observe.

### **General Restrictions for use of Styrofoam/Cardboard:**

- Styrofoam / Cardboard shall NOT be used for weight support and level purpose e.g. use as spreader board (SPB)
- Styrofoam / Cardboard shall NOT be used for overhang build up purpose

Below are some general principles for cargo build up for easy reference:

- Heavy, dense, sturdy large packages shall be loaded at the bottom of the load and with weight evenly distributed over the length and width of the ULD as much as possible; while light, soft packaging, small or fragile packages shall be loaded on top to avoid crushing and damage of package and content;
- Orientation requirement, e.g. this side up label, should be followed;
- Skid load packaging shall be in upright position to ensure cargo load are secured to reduce the chance for leaning/collapse;
- Skid load should be secured in a manner that would not be easily collapsed nor causing difficulty in unloading which might lead to injury to handling staff at station of origin, transit or destination.

In addition, it is recommended to use transparent plastic sheet to cover the pallet so that necessary action can be taken should irregularity be observed.

Please note that the above are best practices and general guidelines. Each carrier might have additional requirements or restrictions. If in doubt, please liaise with the airline(s) that one is contracting with.

**Expiry:** Until Further Notice

Example A: Build up with sufficient surface contact area and cargo within pallet (**Accept**)



Example B: Styrofoam board is for wet/damage protection and cargo within pallet (**Accept**)



Example C: Styrofoam board purely for overhang build up purpose **(Reject)**



Example D: Cardboard purely for overhang build up purpose **(Reject)**



Example E: Styrofoam board is for weight support and level purpose (**Reject**)



Example F: Styrofoam board is for weight support and level purpose plus one piece loaded upside down (**Reject**)



Example G: Styrofoam board with insufficient contact surface and cargo overhang, leading to cargo collapse (**Reject**)

