



ILA-USMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

OSH Circular 2019-04 (15 April 2019)

How To Tell If A Container Is “Extra Wide”

Table 1 - first SIZE-CODE character

Code character	Container length		
	mm	ft	in
1	2 991	10	
2	6 068	20	
3	9 125	30	
4	12 192	40	
5	unassigned		
6	unassigned		
7	unassigned		
8	unassigned		
9	unassigned		
A	7 150		
B	7 315	24	
C	7 430	24	6
D	7 450	-	
E	7 820	-	
F	8 100	-	
G	12 500	41	
H	13 106	43	
K	13 600	-	
L	13 716	45	
M	14 630	48	
N	14 935	49	
P	16 154	-	
R	unassigned		

Table 2 - Second SIZE-CODE character

Code character	Container height			Container width		
	mm	ft	in (8 ft)	2436 mm	> 2438 mm and ≤ 2500 mm	> 2500 mm
0	2438	8		0		
2	2591	8.6	6	2	C	L
4	2743	9		4	D	M
5	2895	9.6	6	5	E	N
6	> 2895	> 9	6	6	F	P
8	1295	4	3	8		
9	< 1219	< 4		9		



The vast majority of intermodal containers are approximately eight feet (2.5 meters) wide. To satisfy the commercial need for containers that could accommodate two European size pallet loads next to one another, there are some “Extra Wide” or “Pallet Wide” containers that are circulating within the global intermodal system. They look the same as a standard ISO container, and the position of their corner posts and corner fittings are exactly the same as a standard ISO container. The only important difference, is that they’re a couple of inches wider than the standard ISO container.

That can sometimes cause these containers to get “hung up” within certain bomb cart trailer designs, which can cause a yard tractor to get “hung up” (and go up) with them. That’s why it’s important for yard tractor drivers and dockside staff to understand how to spot those “Extra Wide” containers during the course of vessel loading operations, and to be able to react accordingly. We’ll explain:

On every container built after 1995, the ISO standard dealing with the marking of containers requires a “Size and Type Code” to appear underneath the owner’s identification/container number (See the photo example, above). Each character within the 4 character “Size and Type Code” tells a story. Using the chart that appears above, we can see that this particular container is: because of the 1st character (**the “L”**) a 45 foot box; because of the 2nd character (**the “E”**) a container that is 8’6” high and one that can be as wide as 8.2 feet. Those extra couple of inches can sometimes mean a World of difference. Watch out for them, to the extent you can!

Got an OSH-related question? Write to the JSC at: blueoceana@optonline.net

Working Together For The Benefit Of All

ILA-USMX OSH Circulars are devised to reflect the best possible information and guidance, and are products of diligent research and the most up to date subject matter knowledge. Consequently, while the information contained herein is believed to be accurate, owing to a host of factors ILA-USMX can convey no direct or implied warranty relative to the reliance of parties upon content.