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STANDARD

**ISO**  
**4118**

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**Non-certified lower-deck containers for air  
transport — Specification and testing**

*Conteneurs non certifiés de pont inférieur d'aéronefs — Spécification et  
essais*



Reference number  
ISO 4118:1996(E)

## Foreword

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Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO 4118 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 20, *Aircraft and space vehicles*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Air cargo and ground equipment*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 4118:1980), which has been technically revised.

Annexes A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H and J form an integral part of this International Standard. Annex K is for information only.

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## Introduction

In this International Standard, the minimum essential criteria are expressed by use of the word "shall". Recommended criteria are identified by use of the word "should" and, while not mandatory, are considered to be of primary importance in providing serviceable, economical and practical air transport containers. Deviation from recommended criteria should occur only after careful consideration, extensive testing and thorough service evaluation have shown alternate methods to be satisfactory.

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# Non-certified lower-deck containers for air transport — Specification and testing

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the general design, performance and testing requirements for compartment-restrained lower-deck containers for air transport which do not require airworthiness certification. The basic function of a container is to unitize and contain its load during ground handling and air transportation. Supplementary requirements will be found in the appropriate annexes.

## 2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

IATA Specification 40/0, *Marking of Unit Load Devices*.<sup>1)</sup>

IATA Specification 40/1, *IATA Identification Code for Unit Load Devices*.<sup>1)</sup>

## 3 General characteristics

Non-certified lower-deck containers for aircraft shall meet the requirements of this International Standard and those of the manufacturer of the aircraft on which they will be loaded.

Provisions should be made for closing and sealing the container to meet customs clearance and security requirements.

## 4 Dimensions and ratings

External contours, dimensions and ratings of applicable non-certified containers are shown in table 1.

These dimensions embrace five contours:

Contour C: overall width from 2 337 mm (92 in)

Contour E: overall width from 2 007 mm (79 in)

Contour F: full width (except "U" shape)

Contour N: fork-liftable versions of DKE and DPE containers

Contour P: rectangular

1) IATA Specifications are given in the "ULD Technical Manual", which can be obtained from: Publications Assistant, International Air Transport Association, 2000 Peel Street, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 2R4; or IATA Publications Dept., Route de l'Aéroport 33, PO Box 672, CH-1215 Genève 15 Aéroport, Switzerland.

**Table 1 — Ratings and contour dimensions of non-certified containers**

| <b>Name of container and nominal dimensions</b>   | <b>Rating</b> (maximum gross weight) <sup>1)</sup> | <b>Contours and external dimensions</b> , see | <b>IATA identification code</b> (according to IATA Specification 40/1) |
|---|--|---|--|
| Half-width contoured container, 2 337 mm (92 in) wide, with base dimensions 1 534 mm × 1 562 mm (60,4 in × 61,5 in) | 1 588 kg (3 500 lb)                                | annex A                                       | DKC  |
| Half-width contoured container, 2 007 mm (79 in) wide, with base dimensions 1 534 mm × 1 562 mm (60,4 in × 61,5 in) | 1 588 kg (3 500 lb)                                | annex B                                       | DKE, DKN   |
| Half-width rectangular container with base dimensions 1 534 mm × 1 562 mm (60,4 in × 61,5 in)                       | 1 588 kg (3 500 lb)                                | annex C                                       | DKP  |
| Full-width contoured container, 4 064 mm (160 in) wide, with base dimensions 1 534 mm × 3 175 mm (60,4 in × 125 in) | 3 175 kg (7 000 lb)                                | annex D                                       | DLF  |
| Full-width rectangular container with base dimensions 1 534 mm × 3 175 mm (60,4 in × 125 in)                        | 3 175 kg (7 000 lb)                                | annex E                                       | DLP  |
| Half-width contoured container, 1 562 mm (61,5 in) wide, with base dimensions 1 534 mm × 1 194 mm (60,4 in × 47 in) | 1 225 kg (2 700 lb)                                | annex F                                       | DPE, DPN   |
| Full-width contoured container, 3 175 mm (125 in) wide, with base dimensions 1 534 mm × 2 438 mm (60,4 in × 96 in)  | 2 449 kg (5 400 lb)                                | annex G                                       | DQF  |
| Full-width rectangular container with base dimensions 1 534 mm × 2 438 mm (60,4 in × 96 in)                         | 2 449 kg (5 400 lb)                                | annex H                                       | DQP  |
| Full-width contoured container, 4 064 mm (160 in) wide, with base dimensions 2 235 mm × 3 175 mm (88 in × 125 in)   | 4 627 kg (10 200 lb)                               | annex J                                       | DAF  |

1) Actual maximum gross weight shall conform to each aircraft weight and balance manual.

## 5 Design requirements

### 5.1 General

**5.1.1** The basic container shall consist of a complete enclosure (base, top, four sides) with access.

**5.1.2** The structure shall be designed to provide the maximum usable internal volume available within the limits of structural design, including access closing.

**5.1.3** The tare weight of the container shall be a minimum consistent with the requirements and within the limits of sound design practice.

**5.1.4** If required, means for fork-lifting the container shall be provided, in accordance with the appropriate annexes.

**5.1.5** Stacking capability is not required.

**5.1.6** The container shall be designed to prevent the ingress of water, such as might be experienced in heavy driving rain.

**5.1.7** Robustness, reliability and maintainability shall be major factors in the design, commensurate with planned service life.

**5.1.8** The materials and processes used in the construction shall be capable of withstanding extremely hard usage for a cost-related life. Materials shall be suitably sealed against liquid absorption to ensure no deterioration in strength under normal environmental conditions.

**5.1.9** The materials used shall be fire resistant, in accordance with appropriate regulatory requirements.

**5.1.10** No surfaces or edges shall present sharp or rough edges potentially injurious to personnel or cargo.

**5.1.11** Where the type of material used requires such protection, all components of the container shall be protected against deterioration or loss of strength in service due to weathering, corrosion, abrasion or other causes.

## 5.2 Base construction

**5.2.1** The bottom surface of the base of the container shall be flat and continuous.

**5.2.2** The base panel shall be smooth and free from discontinuities or projections which may be a hazard to personnel, cargo, aircraft, ramp and terminal handling equipment. The construction shall be designed for strength and durability to withstand harsh treatment during its planned service life. It shall have a high resistance to impact and wear. Attachment of the base panel to the container box (where these are not of integral construction) shall be by means of fasteners which can be assembled with normal hand tools.

**5.2.3** Care shall be exercised in the design and construction of the base to ensure that flatness of the lower surface can be maintained in service and that the base is of adequate strength to minimize bowing.

**5.2.4** The base edges, corners and restraint space shall have dimensions as shown in figures 1 and 2.

**5.2.5** The base design shall provide for support and ease of movement at the equally distributed rating on minimum conveyor systems, as defined in 5.7.1.

**5.2.6** The optional base fork-lift tine entry and separation should be designed so that the base panel of the unit imparts no more than  $9\,550\text{ N/m}^2$  ( $200\text{ lbf/ft}^2$ ) to the supporting conveyor systems.

## 5.3 Body construction

**5.3.1** The sides, roof and access closure shall be of minimum weight to provide maximum stability during ground and airborne handling. Any attachments between the base and container box shall make a minimum intrusion into the base area with no sharp edges or bolt heads. The top of the container shall be self-draining and shall be designed for easy snow clearance.

**5.3.2** Access for loading is generally required on one or both longer sides, although positions may vary to suit individual requirements. Loading may be further assisted by providing access through the roof panel.

**5.3.3** Two handles, straps or hand holds shall be provided on each door for handling the door and for manual movement of the container. These devices shall be capable of withstanding a  $445\text{ daN}$  ( $1\,000\text{ lbf}$ ) pull in any direction.

Each device shall provide an area equivalent to  $152\text{ mm}$  ( $6\text{ in}$ ) wide by  $76\text{ mm}$  ( $3\text{ in}$ ) deep for gripping with a gloved hand.

They shall be designed so that they cannot cause damage to adjacent units.

**5.3.4** A minimum vent area of  $5\text{ cm}^2$  per cubic metre ( $0,02\text{ in}^2$  per cubic foot) of the container internal volume shall be provided if the door seal venting area is not sufficient. This vent area shall be adequately protected from cargo load shift to ensure that the minimum area is maintained during emergency operations.

**5.3.5** For rapid decompression in the event of an aircraft emergency, the container shall include a minimum vent area of  $100\text{ cm}^2$  per cubic metre ( $0,45\text{ in}^2$  per cubic foot) of container internal volume, to become open in a duration of less than  $0,2\text{ s}$  when submitted to a maximum pressure differential of  $14\text{ kPa}$  ( $2,0\text{ lb/in}^2$ ) from inside.

## 5.4 Access closures

**5.4.1** Closures shall be designed to avoid finger-pinching hazards and shall be of sufficient strength to contain the load during air and ground transportation.

**5.4.2** The access closures shall have a minimum number of securing devices to sustain the handling of loads at rating without unlocking. These devices are required to secure the access closures in the closed position. They should be so located that they cannot damage, or become damaged by, adjacent containers. No tools shall be required to operate the closures or the securing devices.

**5.4.3** There shall be a device for the safe retention of access closures in the open position.

## 5.5 Tie-down fittings

Provision may be made for internal securing of the load, such as ring tie-down fittings, these being preferably attached to the base at the corners. Each tie-down fitting shall be capable of supporting a  $907\text{ kg}$  ( $2\,000\text{ lb}$ ) load in any direction.

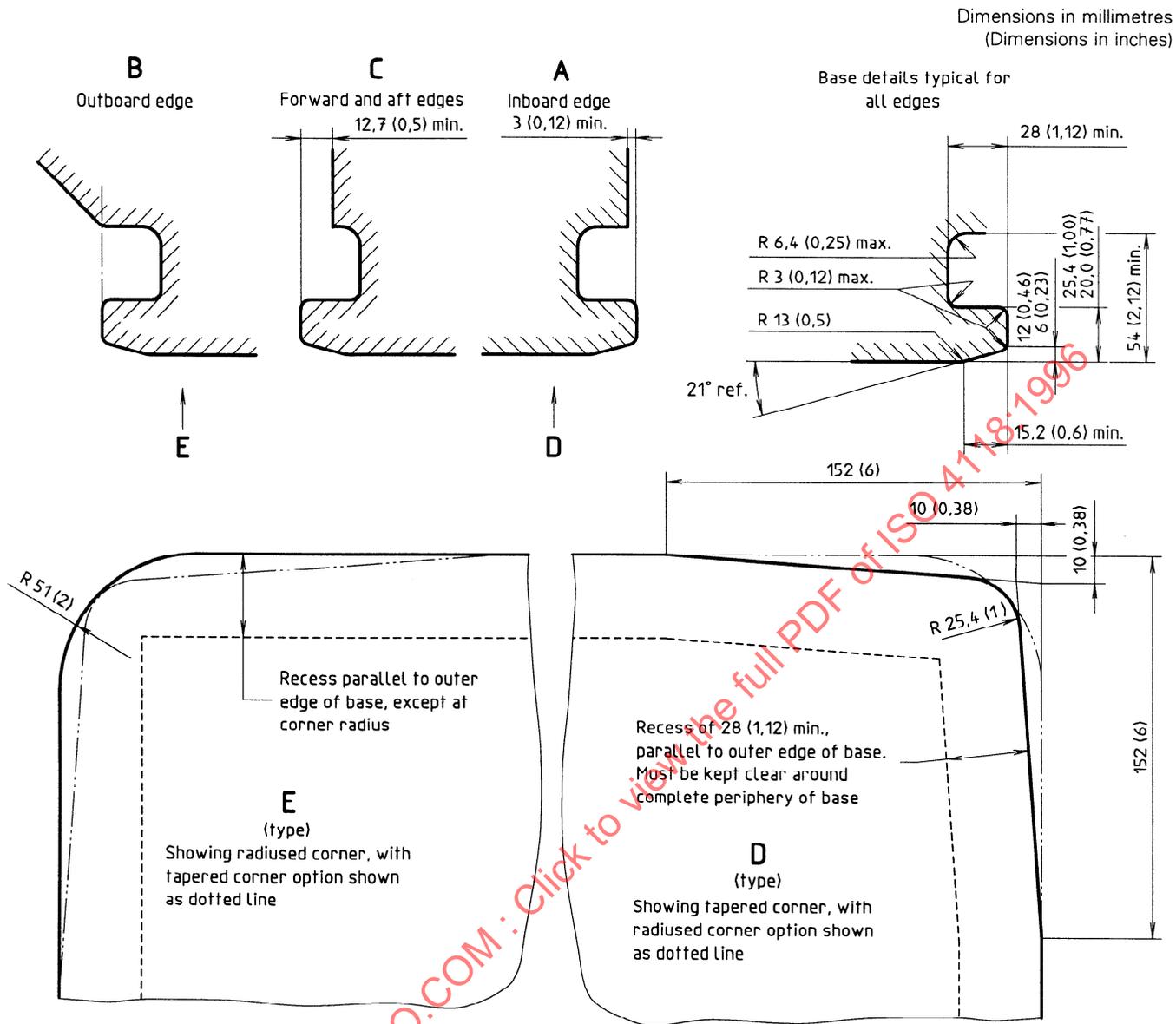


Figure 1 — Details of the container base — Option A

5.6 Placard holders

5.6.1 One or more placard holders to accept destination placards of standard size A5 [210 mm x 148 mm (8 1/4 in x 5 7/8 in)] shall be provided. The upper edge of the holder shall not be more than 1 020 mm (40 in) from the bottom of the base.

5.6.2 It is suggested that the placard holder should have the alternative capability of being used as a board for chalk or grease-pencil markings.

5.7 Operational criteria

5.7.1 Container conveyor systems

Containers should be designed to be stored upon, and manoeuvred over, conveyor surfaces consisting of rollers, inverted casters, ball-transfer units or other devices.

Typically, the units will support the container on:

- a) rollers, at a pitch of up to 305 mm (12 in), in two or more rows (according to roller length), and providing support over approximately 20 % of the width of the container; or

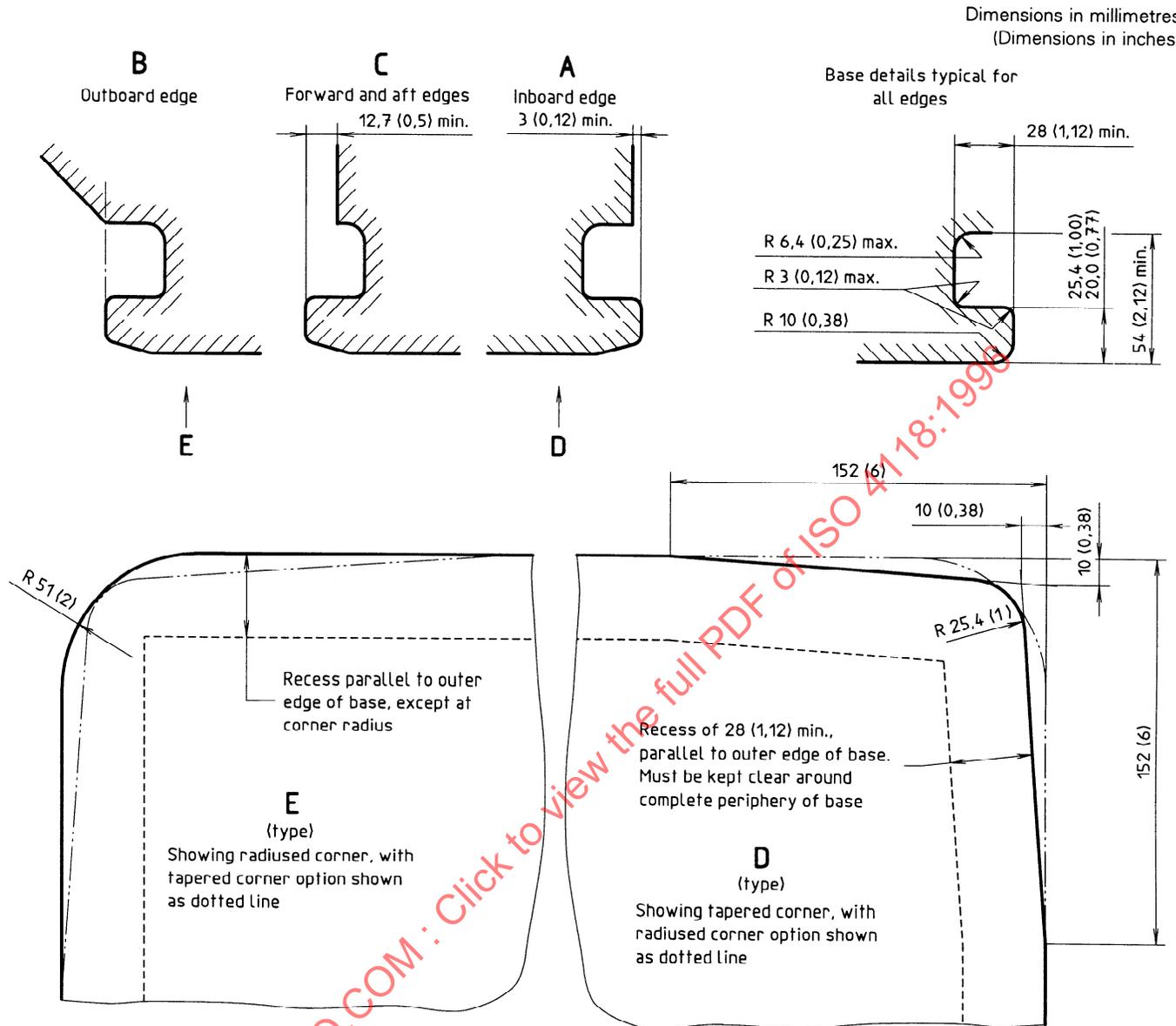


Figure 2 — Details of container base — Option B

- b) inverted casters fitted on a grid pattern of approximately 305 mm × 305 mm (12 in × 12 in), according to the width, diameter and design of the caster wheels; or
- c) ball-transfer units fitted on a grid pattern of at least 127 mm × 127 mm (5 in × 5 in), according to the diameter of the ball units which may vary from 25 mm (1 in) to 102 mm (4 in).

**5.7.2 Bridging and cresting**

The container loaded to its rating shall be capable of traversing from one item of handling equipment to another when there exists a height difference up to 152 mm (6 in) at the junction.

**5.7.3 Atmospheric conditions**

Insofar as atmospheric conditions may affect the performance of the container or any part thereof, it should be taken into account that during air transportation, temperatures range from - 55 °C to + 70 °C (- 65 °F to +160 °F) with relative humidity which varies from 20 % to 85 %. These are the mean temperature and humidity figures worldwide and do not take into account extremes in temperature such as those experienced in arctic, sub-polar or desert regions.

Exposure to these temperatures and relative humidities, however, is not a test requirement.



## Annex A (normative)

### Dimensions and design requirements for half-width contoured containers of code DKC

#### A.1 Dimensions

Dimensions are given in figure A.1.

#### A.2 Fork-lift entry (optional)

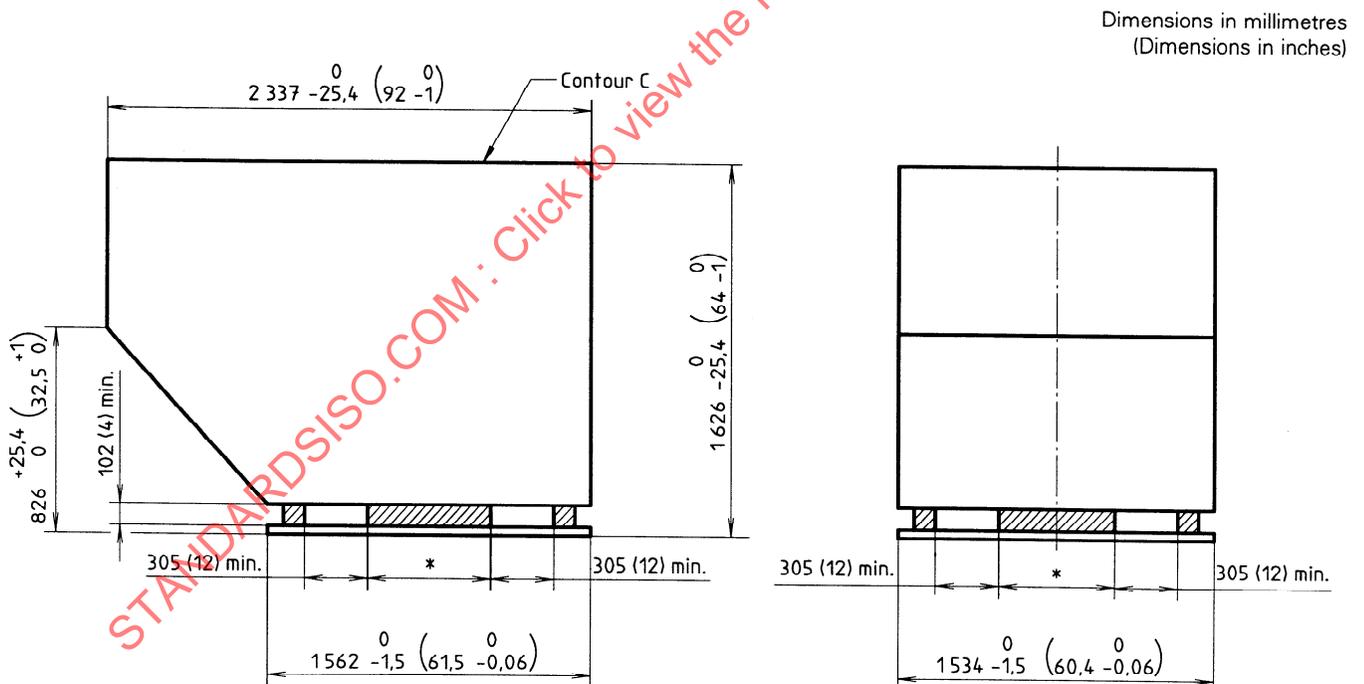
If required, fork-lift entry shall be provided on at least the two long sides, although three-way entry is preferred. The fork-lift pockets should be protected, if possible, and at least chamfers are recommended. The centreline of the fork-lift entry should be shifted

to the outboard side corresponding to deviation of the centre of the base.

#### A.3 Access closures

**A.3.1** It is suggested that access closures be provided on one long side for maximum loadability.

**A.3.2** The closures should have lockings and customs sealings.



#### NOTES

- 1 Aircraft restraint space is shown in figure 1.
- 2 Dimensions denoted by \* should be identical.

**Figure A.1 — Dimensions of half-width contoured containers of code DKC**

**Annex B**  
(normative)

**Dimensions and design requirements for half-width contoured containers of codes DKE and DKN**

**B.1 Dimensions**

Dimensions are given in figure B.1.

**B.2 Fork-lift entry (optional)**

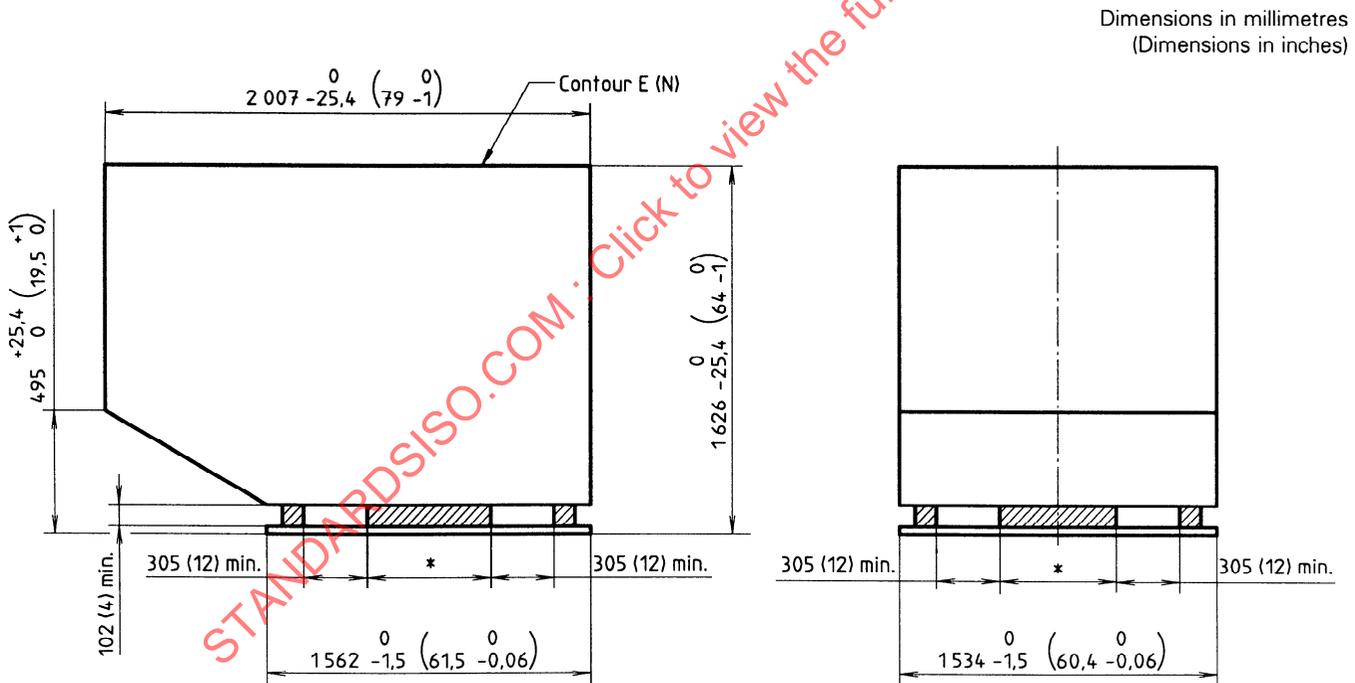
If required, fork-lift entry shall be provided on at least the two long sides, although three-way entry is preferred. The fork-lift pockets should be protected, if possible, and at least chamfers are recommended. The centreline of the fork-lift entry should be shifted

to the outboard side corresponding to deviation of the centre of the base.

**B.3 Access closures**

**B.3.1** It is suggested that access closures be provided on one long side for maximum loadability.

**B.3.2** The closures should have lockings and customs sealings.



NOTES

- 1 Aircraft restraint space is shown in figure 1.
- 2 Dimensions denoted by \* should be identical.

**Figure B.1 — Dimensions of half-width contoured containers of codes DKE and DKN**

## Annex C (normative)

### Dimensions and design requirements for half-width rectangular containers of codes DKP

#### C.1 Dimensions

Dimensions are given in figure C.1.

#### C.2 Fork-lift entry (optional)

If required, fork-lift entry shall be provided on at least two long sides, although four-way entry is preferred. The fork-lift pockets should be protected, if possible, and at least chamfers are recommended.

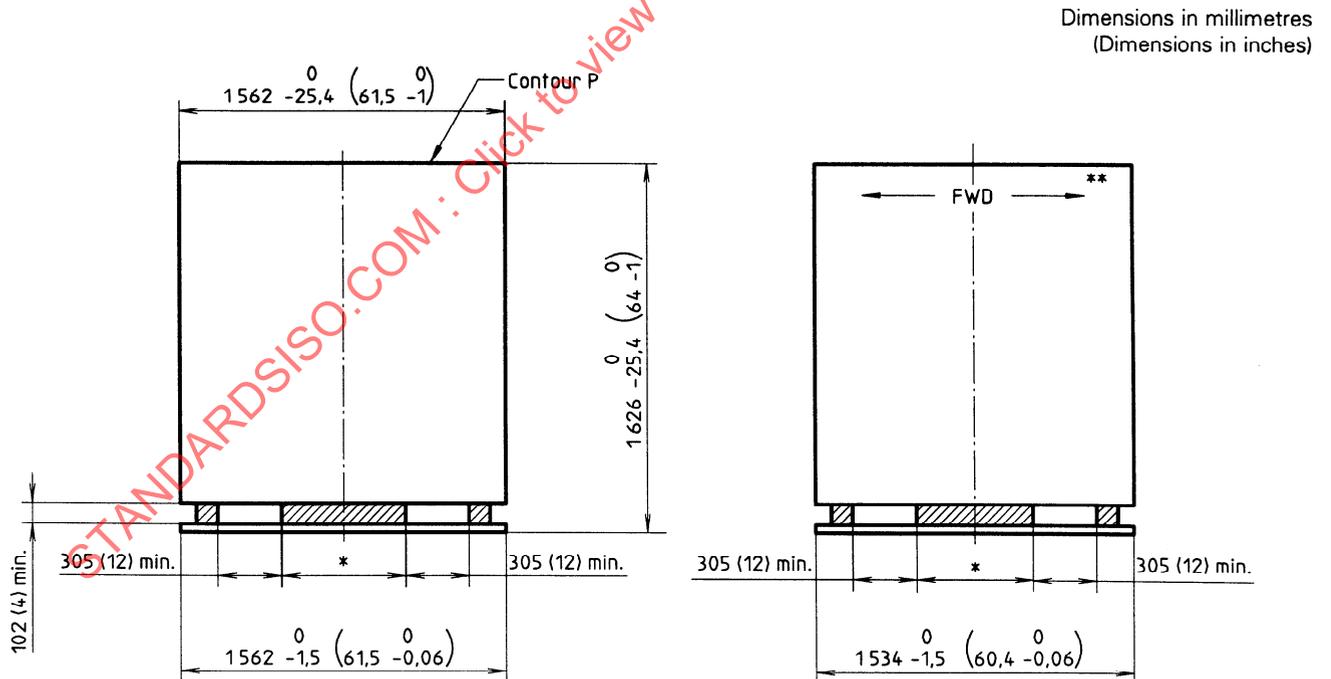
#### C.3 Access closures

**C.3.1** It is suggested that access closures be provided on one long side for maximum loadability.

**C.3.2** The closures should have lockings and customs sealings.

#### C.4 Marking

Both inboard and outboard panels shall be marked to indicate clearly the sides of the container that shall face forwards in the aircraft, as shown in figure C.1.



#### NOTES

- 1 Aircraft restraint space is shown in figure 1.
- 2 Dimensions denoted by \* should be identical.
- 3 \*\*: Marking in accordance with C.4.

**Figure C.1 — Dimensions of half-width rectangular containers of codes DKP**

**Annex D**  
(normative)

**Dimensions and design requirements for full-width contoured containers of code DLF**

**D.1 Dimensions**

Dimensions are given in figure D.1.

**D.2 Fork-lift entry (optional)**

If required, fork-lift entry should be provided on the two long sides. The fork-lift pockets should be pro-

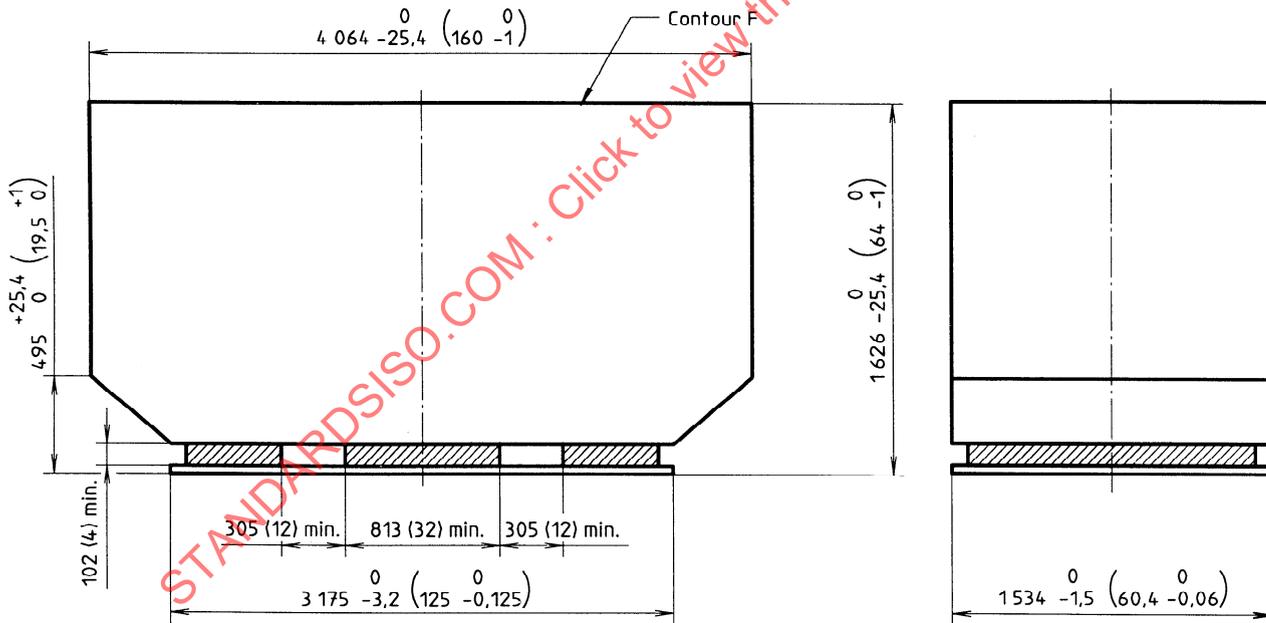
tected, if possible, and at least chamfers are recommended.

**D.3 Access closures**

**D.3.1** It is suggested that access closures be provided on one long side for maximum loadability.

**D.3.2** The closures should have lockings and customs sealings.

Dimensions in millimetres  
(Dimensions in inches)



NOTE — Aircraft restraint space is shown in figure 1.

**Figure D.1 — Dimensions of full-width contoured containers of code DLF**

## Annex E (normative)

### Dimensions and design requirements for full-width rectangular containers of code DLP

#### E.1 Dimensions

Dimensions are given in figure E.1.

#### E.2 Fork-lift entry (optional)

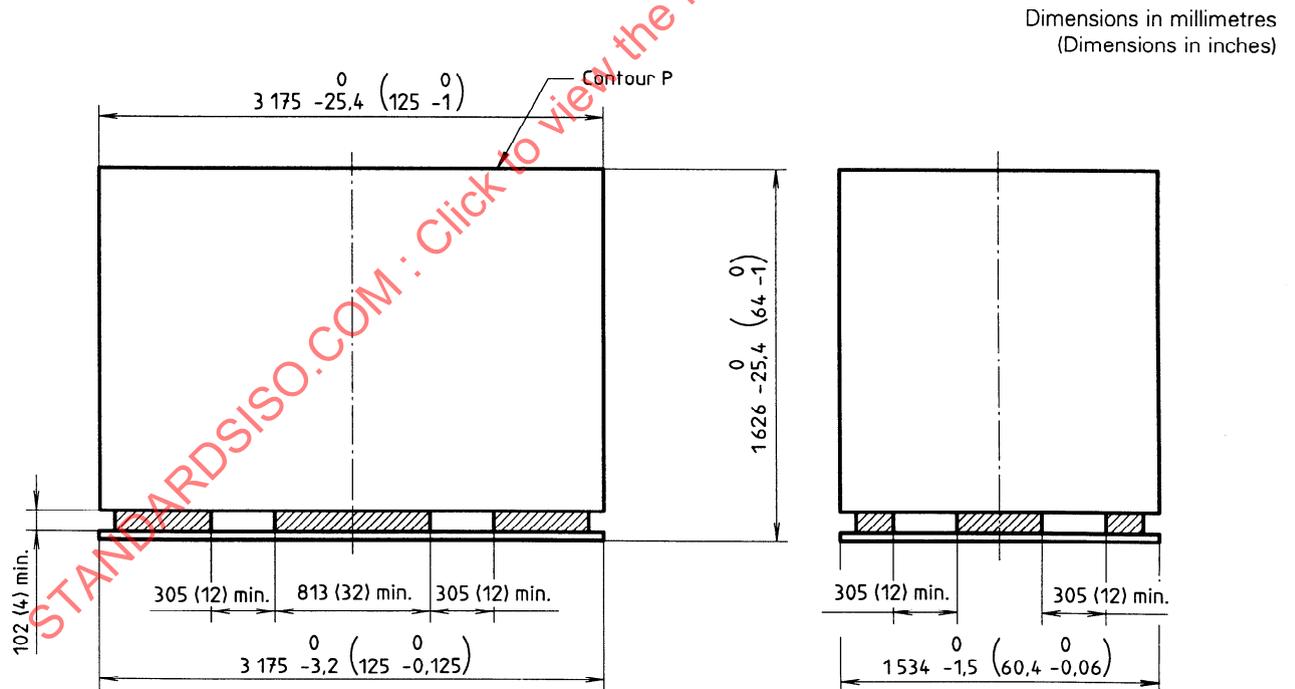
If required, fork-lift entry should be provided on the two long sides. Additional limited-depth fork-lift pockets may be provided on the short sides to assist distance movement of the container. The limited-depth entry shall be such that lifting of the container by

fork-lifts from the end of the container is precluded. The fork-lift pockets should be protected, if possible, and at least chamfers are recommended.

#### E.3 Access closures

**E.3.1** It is suggested that access closures be provided on one long side for maximum loadability.

**E.3.2** The closures should have lockings and customs sealings.



NOTE — Aircraft restraint space is shown in figure 1.

**Figure E.1 — Dimensions of full-width rectangular containers of code DLP**

## Annex F (normative)

### Dimensions and design requirements for half-width contoured containers of codes DPE and DPN

#### F.1 Dimensions

Dimensions are given in figure F.1.

#### F.2 Fork-lift entry (optional)

If required, fork-lift entry should be provided on at least two short sides, although three-way entry is

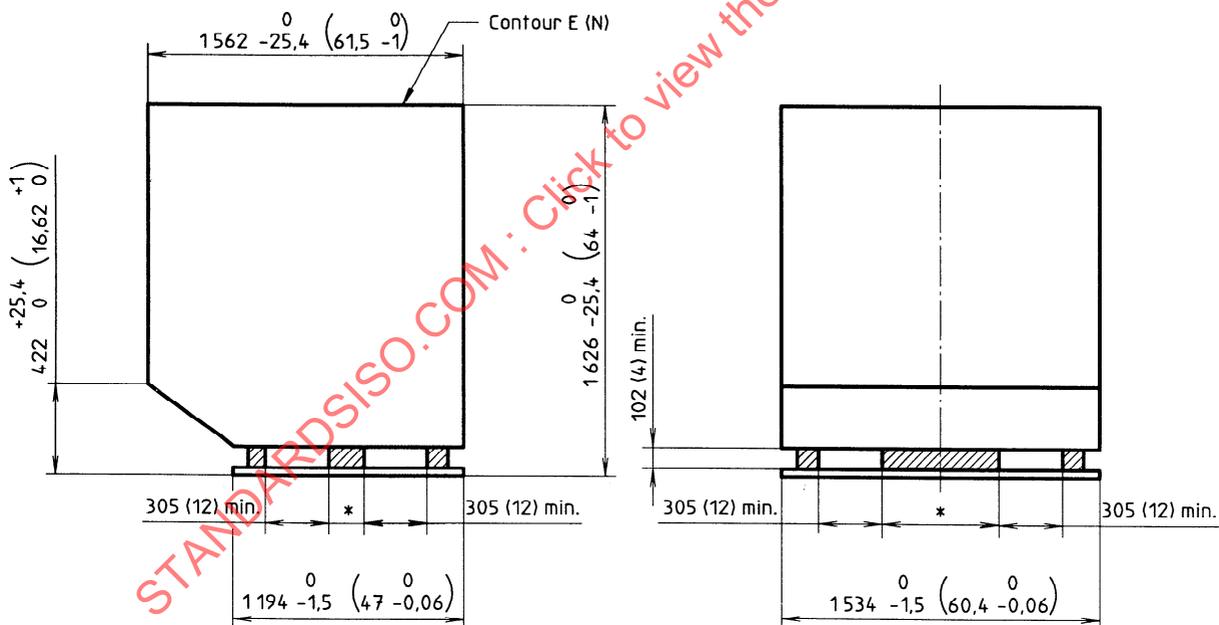
preferred. The fork-lift pockets should be protected, if possible, and at least chamfers are recommended.

#### F.3 Access closures

**F.3.1** It is suggested that access closures be provided on one long side for maximum loadability.

**F.3.2** The closures should have lockings and customs sealings.

Dimensions in millimetres  
(Dimensions in inches)



#### NOTES

- 1 Aircraft restraint space is shown in figure 1.
- 2 Dimensions denoted by \* should be identical.

**Figure F.1 — Dimensions of half-width contoured containers of codes DPE and DPN**

## Annex G (normative)

### Dimensions and design requirements for full-width contoured containers of code DQF

#### G.1 Dimensions

Dimensions are given in figure G.1.

#### G.2 Fork-lift entry (optional)

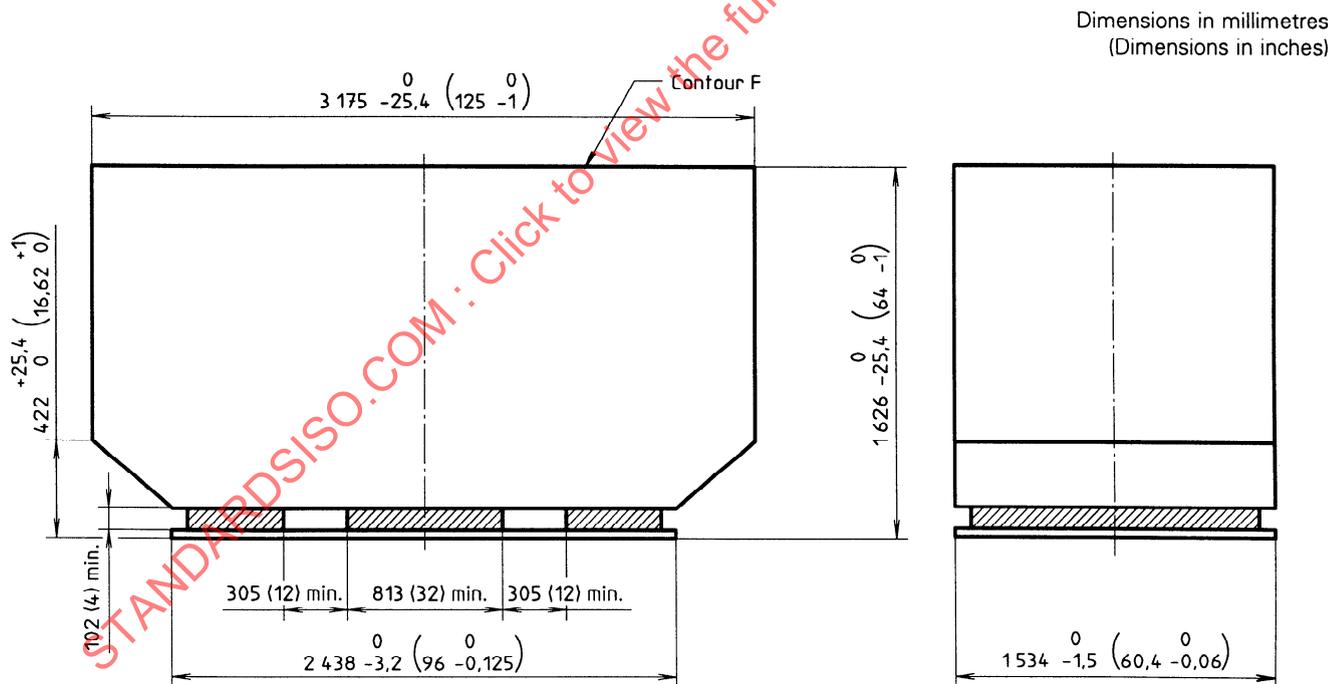
If required, fork-lift entry should be provided on the two long sides. The fork-lift pockets should be pro-

TECTED, if possible, and at least chamfers are recommended.

#### G.3 Access closures

**G.3.1** It is suggested that access closures be provided on one long side for maximum loadability.

**G.3.2** The closures should have lockings and customs sealings.



NOTE — Aircraft restraint space is shown in figure 1.

**Figure G.1 — Dimensions of full-width contoured containers of code DQF**

## Annex H (normative)

### Dimensions and design requirements for full-width rectangular containers of code DQP

#### H.1 Dimensions

Dimensions are given in figure H.1.

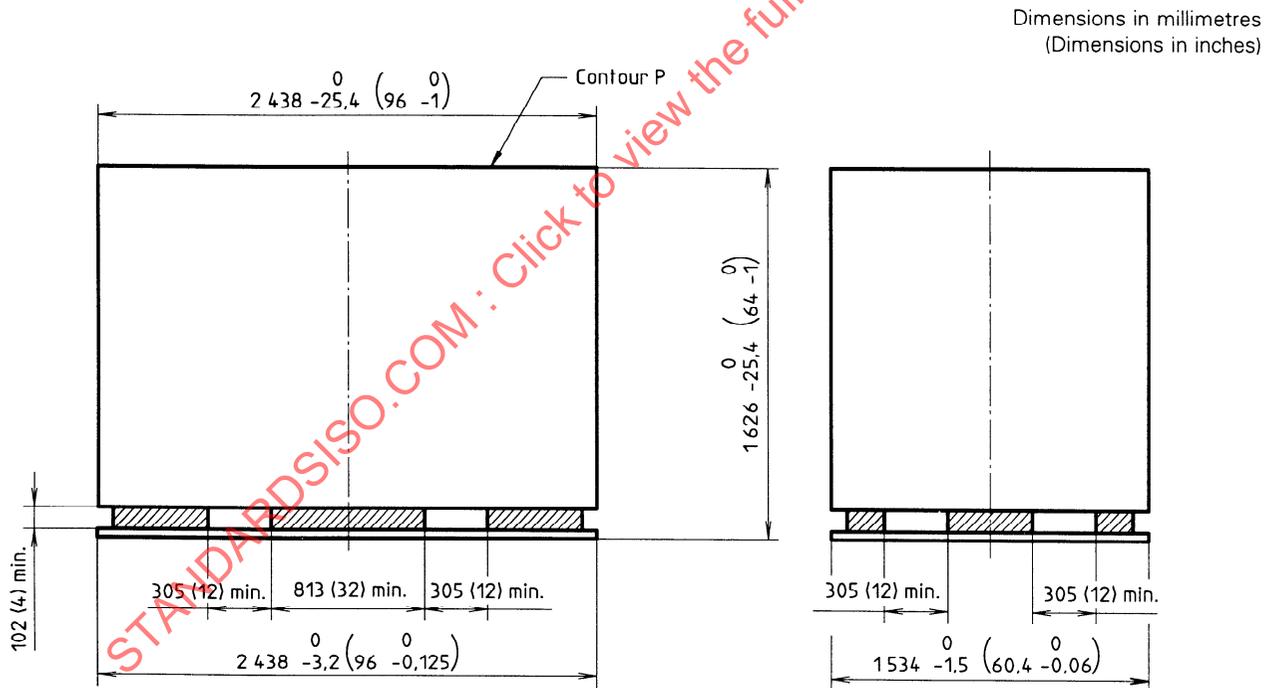
#### H.2 Fork-lift entry (optional)

If required, fork-lift entry should be provided on the two long sides. The fork-lift pockets should be provided, if possible, and at least chamfers are recommended.

It is suggested that access closures be provided on one long side for maximum loadability.

#### H.3 Access closures

The closures should have lockings and customs sealings.



NOTE — Aircraft restraint space is shown in figure 1.

**Figure H.1 — Dimensions of full-width rectangular containers of code DQP**

## Annex J (normative)

### Dimensions and design requirements for full-width contoured containers of code DAF

#### J.1 Dimensions

Dimensions are given in figure J.1.

#### J.2 Fork-lift entry (optional)

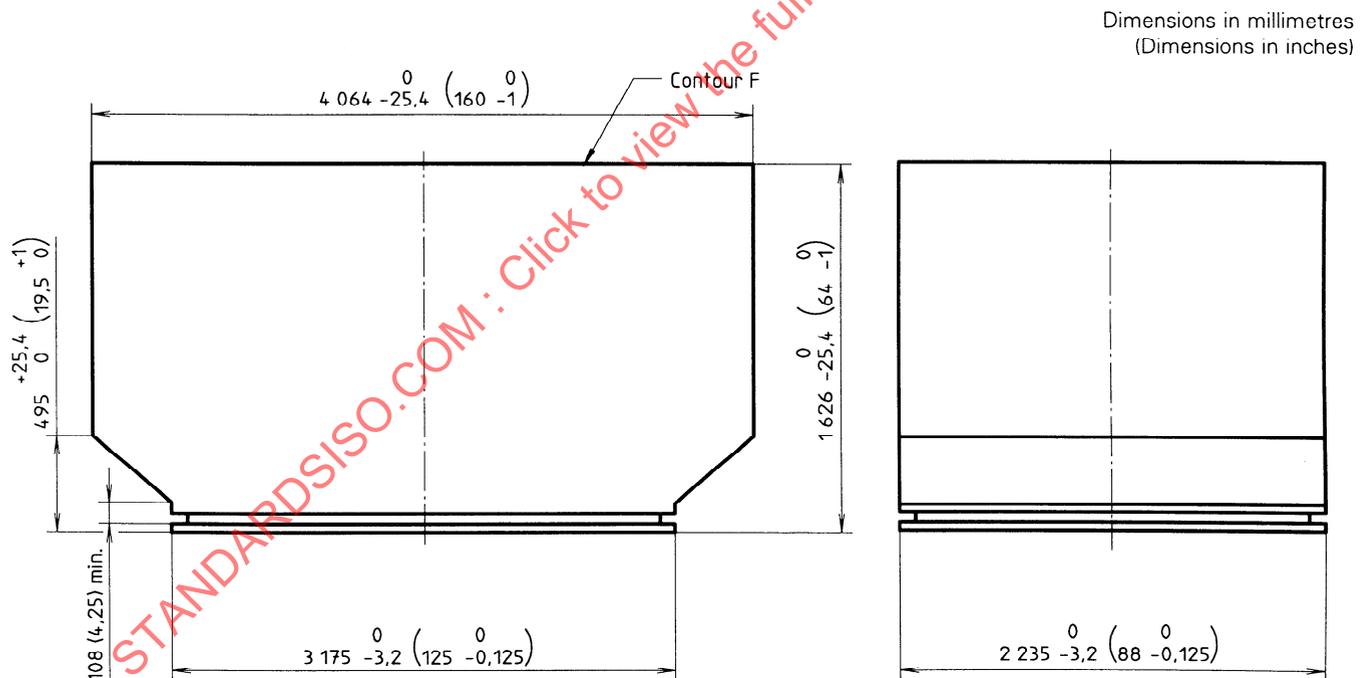
If required, fork-lift entry should be provided on the two long sides. The fork-lift accesses should be provided, if possible, and at least chamfers are recommended.

ected, if possible, and at least chamfers are recommended.

#### J.3 Access closures

**J.3.1** It is suggested that access closures be provided on one long side for maximum loadability.

**J.3.2** The closures should have lockings and customs sealings.



NOTE — Aircraft restraint space is shown in figure 1.

**Figure J.1 — Dimensions of full-width contoured containers of code DAF**