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Some golden rules for a proper pre-loading container check :

Outside of container:

1. No holes or cracks in walls or roof.
2. Doors operate properly.
3. Closing devices operate properly.
4. No adhesive labels/stickers from the previous cargo, e.g. IMO placards.
5. For flatracks: stanchions (if ordered) are complete and correctly fitted. For 40' flatracks: all lashing belts are present.
6. For open-top containers: roof bows are complete and correctly fitted.
7. For open-top containers: tarpaulins are undamaged and fit properly; ends of tarpaulin ropes are undamaged; all roof eyes are present.
8. For hard-top containers: roof is undamaged, roof locking mechanism fits and operates properly.

Inside of container:

9. Container is watertight. Test method: enter container, close both doors tightly and look for incoming light (e.g. through cracks, holes, door gaskets etc.).
10. Container interior is absolutely dry. (Wipe up any condensation or white frost in order to avoid corrosion and moisture damage of the cargo.)
11. Container is clean, free of cargo residues and neutral in odor.
12. No nails or other protrusions which could damage the cargo.