



INTERMODAL ASSOCIATION
OF NORTH AMERICA



UNITED STATES HIDE, SKIN
& LEATHER ASSOCIATION



BUILDING AMERICA™

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD



BURLINGTON NORTHERN
SANTA FE RAILWAY CO.

IANA Operations Committee & USHSLA Joint Task Force

Recommended Practices for the Loading of Hides

FINAL REPORT – October 2003

1. General Comments

This update constitutes the efforts by representatives of IANA's Operations Committee - Task Force on Terminal Best Practices and representatives of the U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association (USHSLA) to establish recommended guidelines and recommended procedures to reduce the rejection of loaded containers at rail terminal facilities and to reduce the leakage of fluids from the units. Members of the combined task force met in the Denver area on September 24, 2003, to view the loading process at two separate hide shipping facilities and to discuss potential remedies.

The principle issue in the transportation of hides is the leaking of fluids from the containers. Shipper complaints originated from transportation suppliers assessing clean-up charges for leaking containers. Containers are inspected during the in-gate process and if leaking is discovered, the load is rejected. The loads are inspected at various times during transit, and if leaking is discovered, a clean-up charge is assessed to the shipper to cover the cost of steam cleaning equipment and yard cleanup.

IANA Task Force members have collected and analyzed information and loading data on the transportation of hide shipments in steamship containers. Data was assembled on hide loading practices, leaking protection being utilized, actions taken when shipments are leaking enroute, and policies and procedures covering the shipment of hides. Union Pacific (UP) and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) damage prevention professionals derived much of the information from on-site inspection of hide loading operations at several shippers' plant facilities.

2. Background Information

- a) Hides (STCC 20141) are shipped primarily in 20-foot containers, and are generally loaded with 38,500-43,000 pounds of cargo per container.
- b) Two methods are used in the shipment of hides:
 1. Some hides may be stacked on the floor of container by hand ("floor loading").
 2. The majority of hide shipments are palletized and loaded by forklifts.
- c) Claim Prevention Specialists observed the following, at various plant facilities, during the hide loading process.

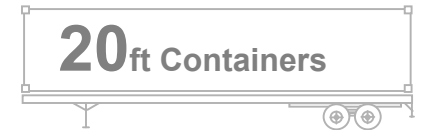
1. Protection liners vary in thickness and were generally extremely lightweight (up to 20 mil) material. Some liners appear to do very little to protect the product from leaking and are easily punctured and torn.
2. Some containers lack suitable blocking and bracing. Pallets are commonly stacked two-high. Some configurations (pallets loaded 2 high and side by side) would leave approximately 3½ -4 feet of void space between the end of the product and the doors. Without application of blocking and bracing, this form of loading allows room for the load to shift—and could potentially tear the protective liner.
3. A uniform loading configuration and consistent procedure does not currently exist.

3. Recommended Practices

On September 25, 2003 the combined IANA and USHSLA task force met at the Denver office of APL Limited and developed the following recommended practices for shippers of hides. To alleviate the leaking and subsequent rejection of containers containing the hide commodity, task force members mutually agreed to the following:

- 1) All containers should be thoroughly inspected before lining is installed. A walk through inspection should ensure container is free of debris and any protrusions above floor level should be removed. Pallets should not have any protrusions (nails, screws, staples, etc.) that would compromise the integrity of the liner. Rough surfaces should be covered and containers with blatant defects such as gaping holes should be rejected.
- 2) Protective liners to catch leakage should be used. Preliminary testing has shown that a minimum 30 mil. or combination equivalent base liner. Base liner material should cover the entire container floor and extend up all four container sidewalls at least 12 inches. Additional base material or a lighter reinforced moisture resistant material attached to the base liner needs to extend up the side walls beyond the 12 inches minimum base material to channel any drainage from the top pallets to be retained in the container.
- 3) Liners should extend beyond the height of the load to insure any liquid is captured. Tie cords of liner should be secured to integrated container tie rings.
- 4) See Loading Diagrams for 20 ft. containers covering 15-20 pallet configurations on pages 3 through 10.
- 5) Sufficient protection, for example rubber mats, should be placed at the rear of the container to prevent forklifts from tearing the liner. These would be underneath the liner and on top of the liner, with the loading ramp /dock plate placed on top of the protection.
- 6) A training program should be developed to train applicable personnel in the proper methods of pre-inspecting containers, proper installation of the liner, and loading of the product.

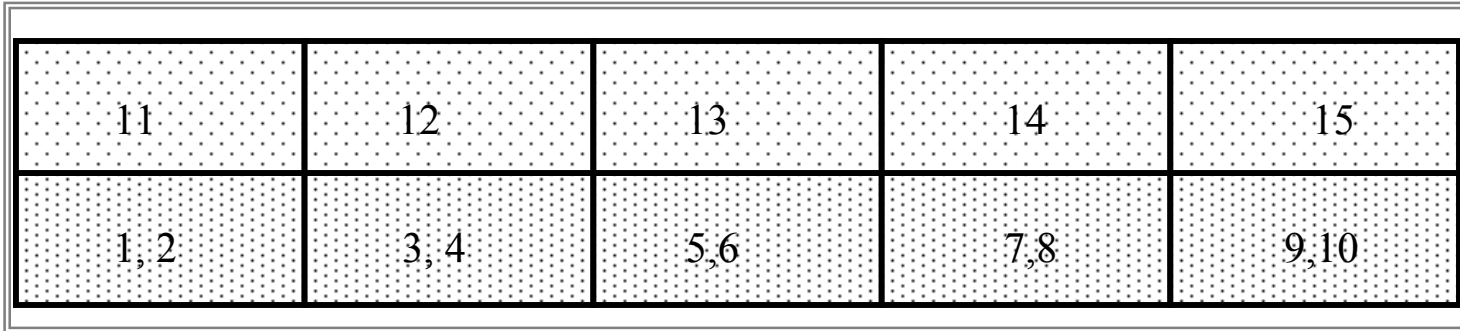
Hides - 15 Pallet Configuration



Nose

Side Wall Cutaway View

Rear



Pallet Size: 42"x44", 40"x42" or 40"x44"

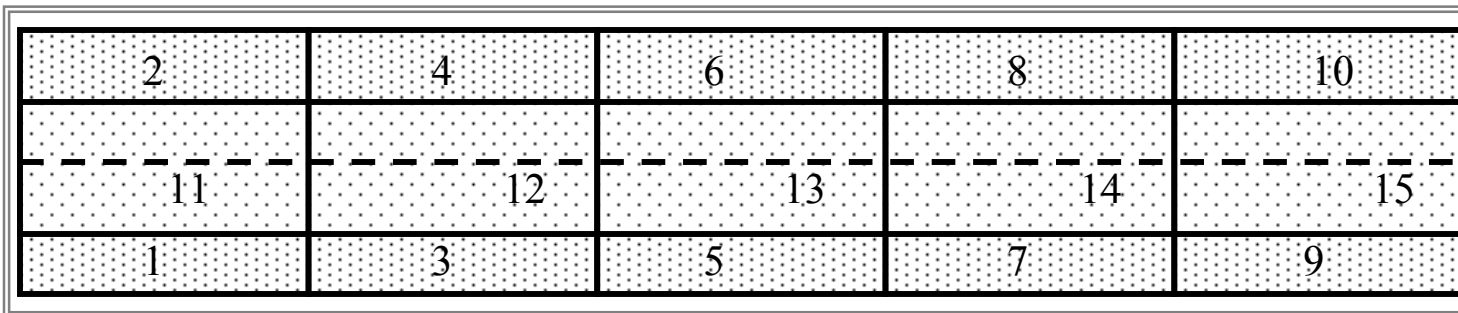
Stack Height approximately 3' per stack

← 232.5" interior length) →

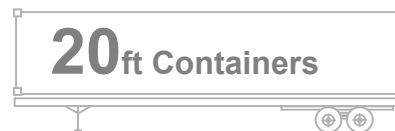
Nose

Overhead View

Rear



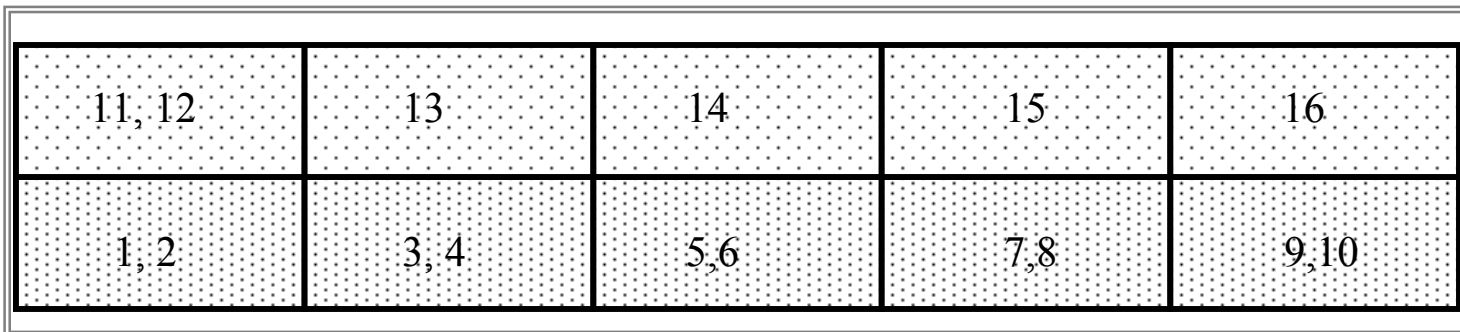
Hides - 16 Pallet Configuration A



Nose

Side Wall Cutaway View

Rear



Pallet Size: 42"x44", 40"x42" or 40"x44"

Stack Height approximately 3' per stack

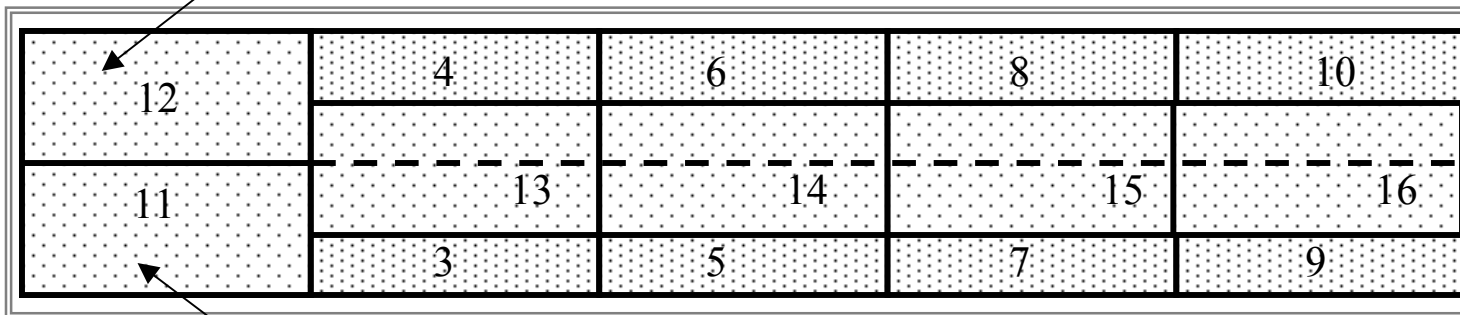
232.5" interior length)

Nose

2 directly beneath 12

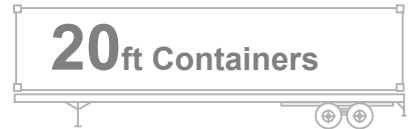
Overhead View

Rear



1 directly beneath 11

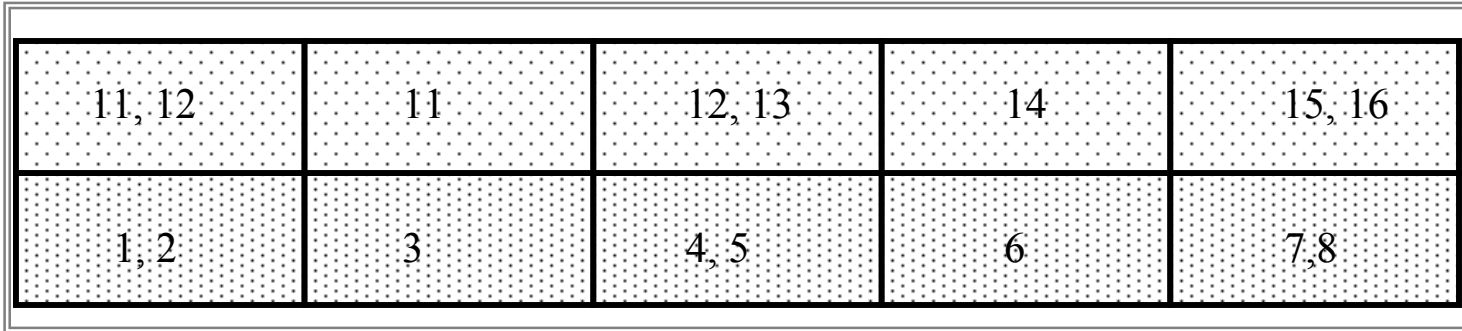
Hides - 16 Pallet Configuration B



Nose

Side Wall Cutaway View

Rear



Pallet Size: 42"x44", 40"x42" or 40"x44"

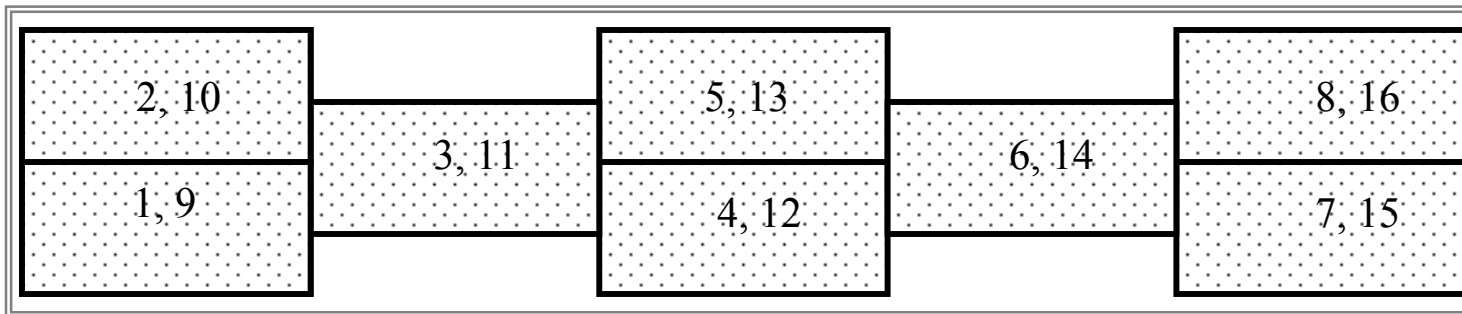
Stack Height approximately 3' per stack

← 232.5" interior length) →

Nose

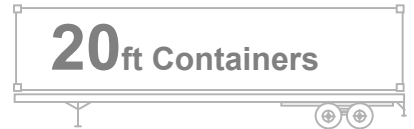
Overhead View

Rear



Level 2 stacks directly on top of level 1 stacks

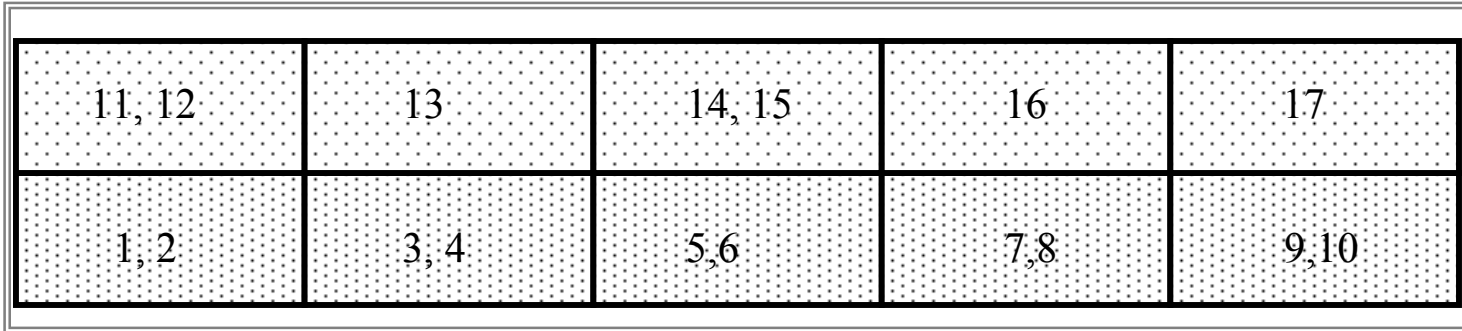
Hides - 17 Pallet Configuration



Nose

Side Wall Cutaway View

Rear



Pallet Size: 42"x44", 40"x42" or 40"x44"

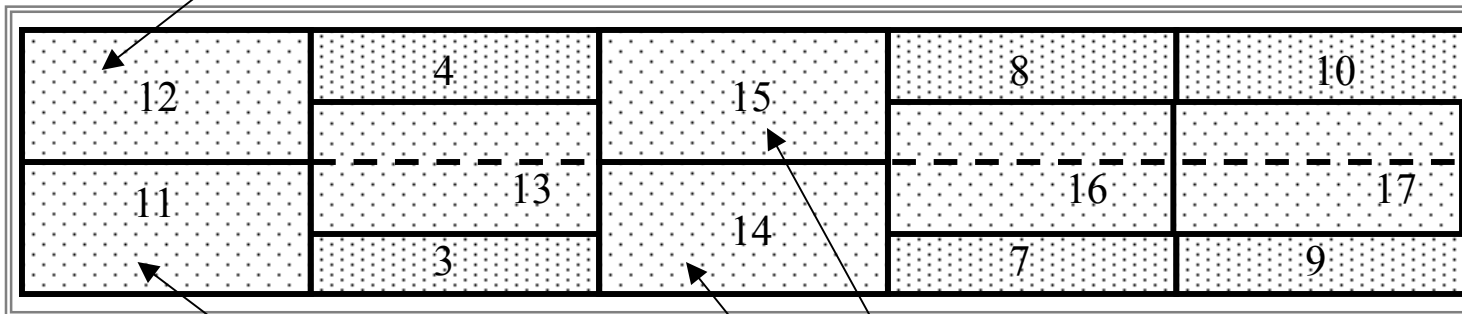
Stack Height approximately 3' per stack

232.5" interior length)

Nose

Overhead View

Rear

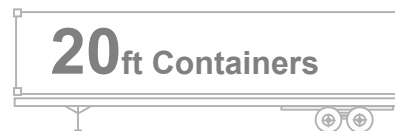


1 directly beneath 11

6 directly beneath 15

5 directly beneath 14

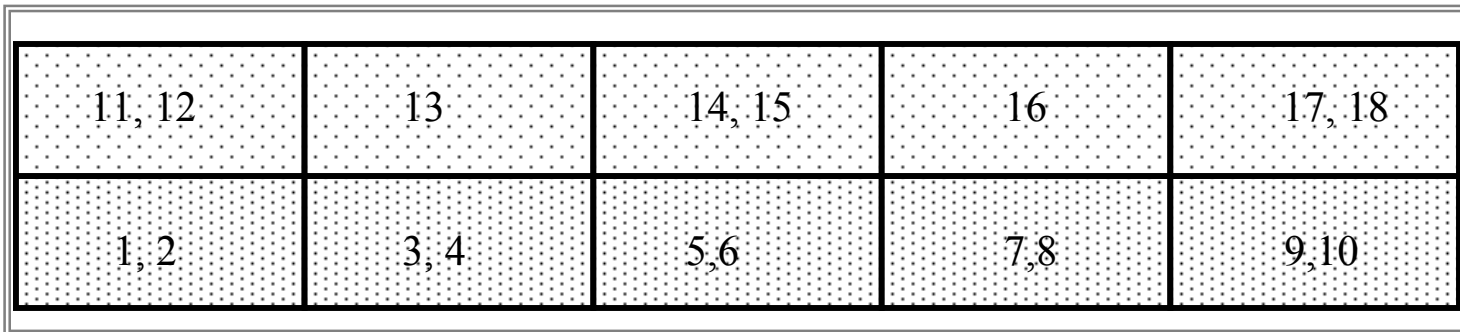
Hides - 18 Pallet Configuration A



Nose

Side Wall Cutaway View

Rear



Pallet Size: 42"x44", 40"x42" or 40"x44"

Stack Height approximately 3' per stack

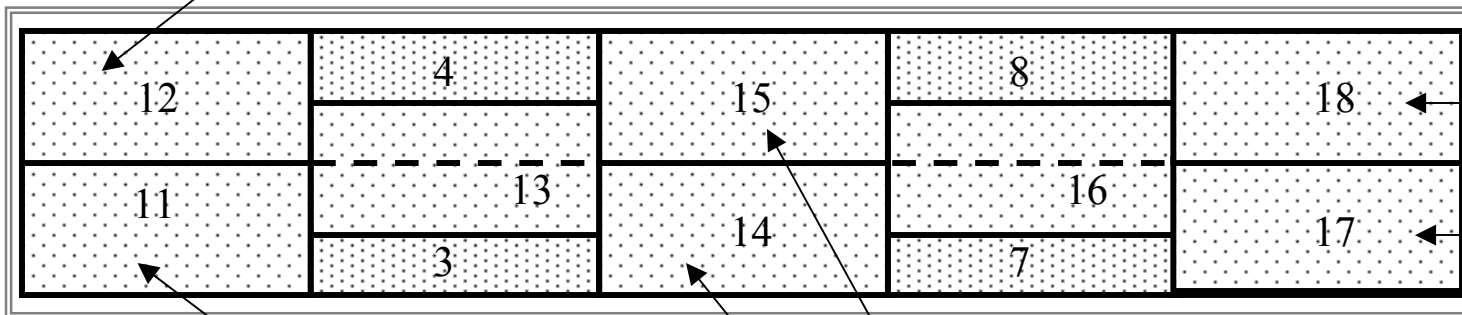
232.5" interior length)

Nose

Overhead View

10

Rear



10 directly beneath 18

9 directly beneath 17

1 directly beneath 11

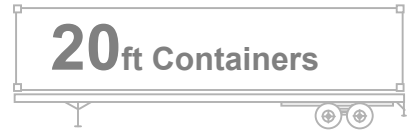
6 directly beneath 15

5 directly beneath 14

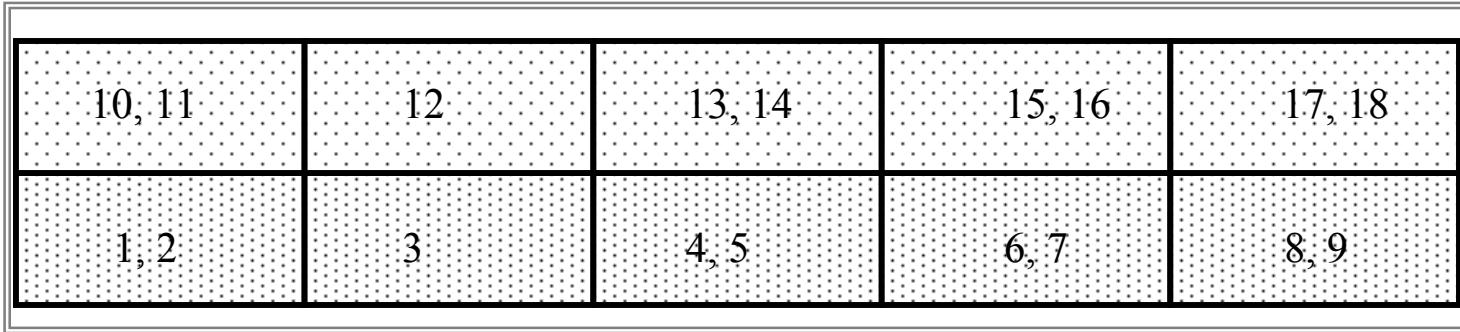


Union Pacific Damage Prevention
 File:Hides, 20 ft box, 18 A pallet
 Date:10-20-03 By: K Abaray

Hides - 18 Pallet Configuration B



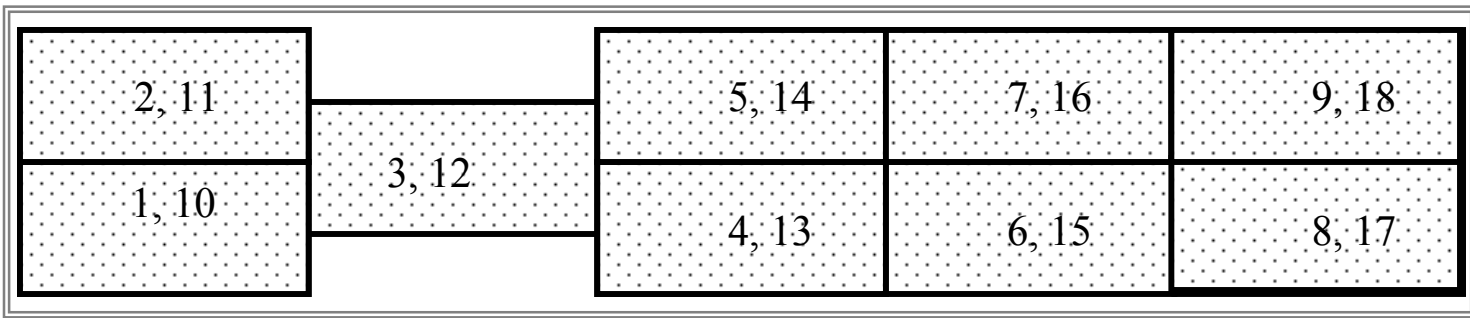
Nose **Side Wall Cutaway View** Rear



Pallet Size: 42"x44", 40"x42" or 40"x44"
 Stack Height approximately 3' per stack

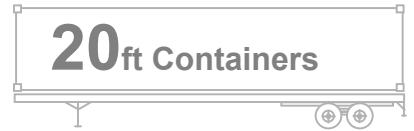
← 232.5" interior length →

Nose **Overhead View** Rear



Level 1 stacks directly beneath level 2 stacks

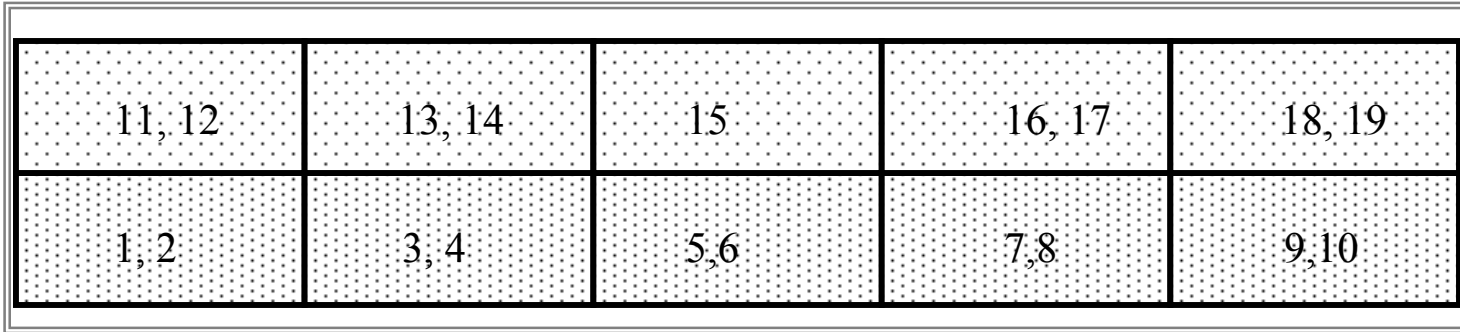
Hides - 19 Pallet Configuration



Nose

Side Wall Cutaway View

Rear



Pallet Size: 42"x44", 40"x42" or 40"x44"

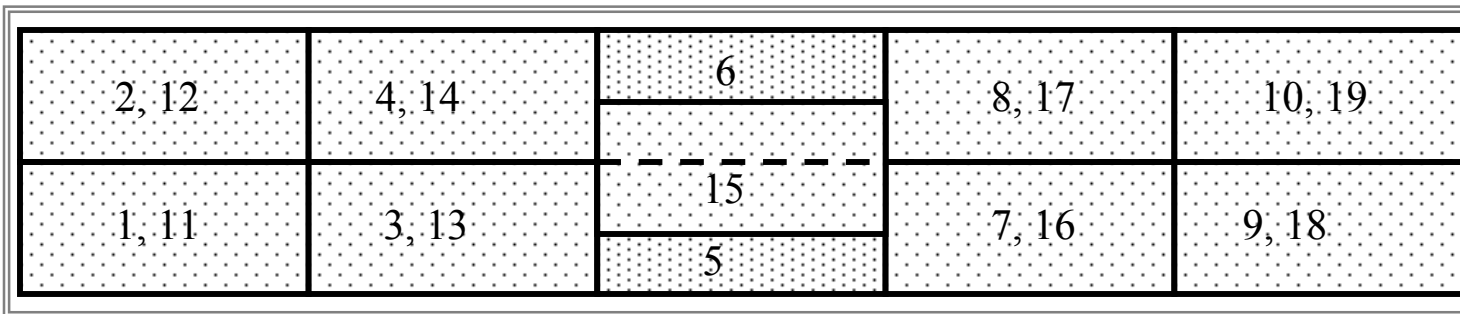
Stack Height approximately 3' per stack

← 232.5" interior length) →

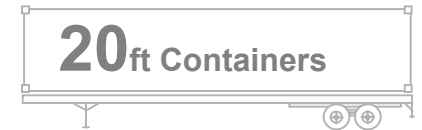
Nose

Overhead View

Rear



Hides - 20 Pallet Configuration



Nose

Side Wall Cutaway View

Rear

11, 12	13, 14	15, 16	17, 18	19, 20
1, 2	3, 4	5, 6	7, 8	9, 10

Pallet Size: 42"x44", 40"x42" or 40"x44"

Stack Height approximately 3' per stack

← 232.5" interior length) →

Nose

Overhead View

Rear

2, 12	4, 14	6, 16	8, 18	10, 20
1, 11	3, 13	5, 15	7, 17	9, 19

Level 1 stacks directly beneath level 2 stacks