

# Steel Bulk Container 101

In an effort to make designing or choosing the correct container for your process a little easier please use this information as a reference guide to the different terminology used in “the business”, an overview of different types of units available and as way to help you determine the features and benefits of each container and how it will function in your particular operation.



**Drop Bottom Box-** as it’s name implies the floor is hinged at the rear so when it is placed into a work stand it opens like a clam shell allowing the contents of the box to dump out.



**Hopper Front Box-** Often used in assembly cells because their design allows quick access to the product inside, allowing you to stage multiple parts in a more condensed area.



**Control Flow Box-** This unit too interfaces with a work stand (shown with box on left and without right). When the unit is placed in the stand the door on the front of the unit can be raised to allow the desired amount of product to flow out.



## **Knock Down or Collapsible container-**

These units are designed to lock into an open position to be loaded with and to store product. When emptied they can be collapsed to allow more compact storage of empty units, an especially nice feature if you have to ship these units empty. They often have half drop gates on two opposite sides.

## The benefits of a custom container

When purchasing a new container for use with a new production line or new equipment a lot of people often make the mistake of assuming that containers are a good place to try and squeeze some cost out of a project. They often decide to go with an off the shelf container that “almost” does what they want it to do with the idea that they are saving lots on money. What they don’t realize is that at the end of the day it will cost them more than they saved.

Sure there are a lot of container manufacturers that are more than happy to let you make that mistake by offering cheap, under built, “standard” size containers at a low price. They aren’t worried about the money these units will cost you in the long run through repair and replacement costs, damaged product or excess freight costs.

By taking short cuts in manufacturing and assembly such as offering fewer corrugations, lighter material, fewer smaller welds and by producing in large runs they can sell them for a little less than the right container for the job. They are able to sell them cheaply because they are made that way, cheaply.

Here at Streator Dependable we believe that you deserve better than that. For the slight difference in cost we can manufacture you a unit that will stand the test of time and that will give you many years of safe, dependable service, maximizing your freight dollars while protecting your product at the same time. 65 plus years of experience has taught us what works and what doesn’t and We will design and build a unit that will do exactly what you need it to do, over and over again.



## Typical container terms

- Two Way entry – Only able to enter and pick up container from two opposing sides
- Four Way entry – able to enter and pick up from all sides of container, accomplished on unit shown above with the addition of fork tubes on the long side of the unit.
- Usable Dimensions – the “open air” available for storage in the container
- Overall Dimensions – the entire “cube” the box occupies
- Under Clearance – the distance between the floor and bottom of box where fork lift enters. Industry standard on pallets and containers is 4”.

## Things to Consider

- How much weight will be stored in container
- Do you need them to stack?
- Do they need to stack with existing units?
- How high will you stack them?
- How will they be loaded/unloaded?
- Will you be shipping them in a truck?
- Will they be storing product or stored in a matter where they will collect oil, water or some other substance?
- Will they need to ride on a conveyor?
- Do you need any information stenciled or stamped on unit?
- Do you need a card holder?
- Do you want the container painted?