

	Land Use Services Building and Safety Division Information Bulletin	Number: IB-0002
		Code References: 2025 CBC 2025 CRC
Building Official Signature: <i>Maged Soliman</i> Maged Soliman, PE, CBO, CASp		Original Effective Date: April 27, 2018
Subject: Cargo Containers for Incidental Storage		Updated: July 29, 2026

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Information Bulletin is to establish minimum conditions and requirements for Transport Cargo Containers (Containers). Containers, commonly used on ocean going vessels, may be used permanently as a container for incidental storage.

2.0 HISTORY

Original Effective Date: April 27, 2018; Updated: May 16, 2023.

3.0 SCOPE And APPLICABILITY

This Information Bulletin applies only to shipping containers that meet all the following conditions:

- The shipping container is proposed on a site that is not located within a Special Flood Hazard Area.
- The shipping container is proposed on a site that is not located within a landslide hazard area or other area identified as having geologic hazards requiring site-specific engineering or geotechnical evaluation.
- The shipping container is proposed on a site that is not located within a designated snow load area.
- This information bulletin is limited in application to residential projects only.

4.0 POLICY/PROCEDURE

Permits

- A. Accessory Structure (ACCR) permits shall be required for each lot when cargo containers are used for incidental storage. One permit application may include multiple containers.

Plans and requirements

- B. A site plan is required with the following information:
 - a. Property lines, and street(s);
 - b. All existing building and equipment locations, and parking spaces;
 - c. Dimensions and locations of proposed containers;
 - d. Dimensions from property lines and existing buildings/equipment to proposed containers.
- C. The containers shall be constructed of steel or aluminum with a minimum 14-gauge thickness except for a wood floor within the metal shell. Structural plans and calculations are not required.
- D. The container may be placed directly on flat ground, but the surrounding area shall be graded to drain surface water away from the container per CRC R401.3. Inspector will verify this in the field.
- E. The containers shall not be used for human occupancy.
- F. The containers shall be located a minimum of 5 feet (or more) from a property line, and 10 feet (or more) from buildings and outside of all easements. Containers are not allowed in front yard



setbacks. Check the Development Code for all setbacks and compatibility determinations requirements in your zone and region.

- G. The containers shall not block, obstruct, or reduce any required exits, or parking spaces, including access driveways, or existing site drainage patterns on the lot.
- H. Each container shall not exceed 10 feet in height and shall not be “stacked” on top of each other or joined in any manner.
- I. Containers that have factory-built electrical, plumbing, heating or air conditioning system shall not be connected to a power source. (No UTILITY is allowed.)
- J. Containers shall not be used to store flammable/combustible liquids or hazardous materials.
- K. San Bernardino County Development Code review approval is required for the container. Check the Development Code for compatibility and/or painting requirements in your zone or region.

Disabled Access Requirements

- L. The use of the containers does not allow human occupancy and is therefore exempted from disabled access regulations.

(Please see next page for Table 1.1)

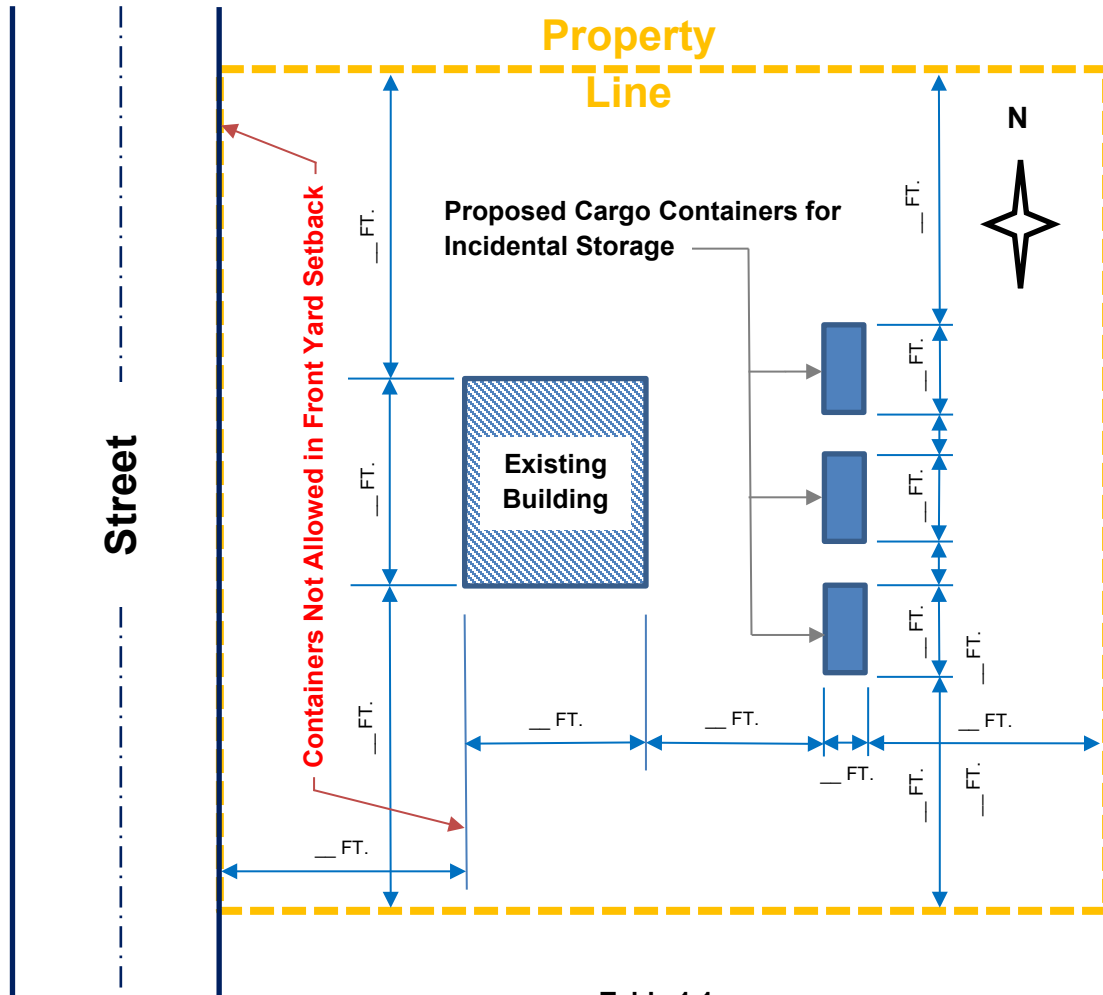


Table 1.1
Example Site Plan

Note:

1. The containers are min. 14-gauge thick steel or aluminum.
2. The containers are not for human occupancy.
3. The containers shall not block, obstruct, or reduce any required exits, parking spaces including access driveways or existing site drainage patterns on the lot.
4. Each container shall not exceed 10 feet in height and shall not be "stacked" on top of each other or joined in any manner.
5. Containers that have factory-built electrical, plumbing, heating or air conditioning system shall not be connected to a power source. (No UTILITY is allowed.)
6. Containers are not allowed in front yard setback.