

**SANTA ROSA FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**  
**STANDARD**

July 1, 2010



**CARGO CONTAINERS (SEA-LAND)**  
**AS STORAGE BUILDINGS**

**PURPOSE**

To establish a policy differentiating requirements for temporary vs permanent Sea-Land Cargo Containers used for storage purposes. Additionally, to address occupancies of these types of structures other than that for storage.

**GENERAL**

A Sea-Land Cargo Container, (sometimes known as a "Seatrail" or "Conex Box") is defined as a prefabricated metal structure designed for use as an individual shipping container in accordance with international standards or a metal structure designed and built for use as an enclosed truck trailer in accordance with Department of Transportation standards.

**AUTHORITY**

The Fire Chief shall have the authority to render interpretations of the code and adopt and enforce rules and supplemental regulations to clarify the application of provisions per Section 104.1 of the California Building Fire Code.

**PROCEDURE**

**A. Temporary Storage Use.**

1. Occupancy classification shall be that of Group U, Division 1 as defined by CBC Section 312.
2. All standard approvals for a new structure of this size shall be obtained including a site evaluation.
3. A site plan must be submitted.
4. All required setbacks for a U-1 Occupancy storage building shall be met.
5. Proposed use shall comply with the requirements and restrictions of a U-1 occupancy and the storage container shall not be used for any other purpose.
6. The application shall be processed the same as other "U" Occupancies.
7. Except in flood hazard areas, cargo containers may be installed on a temporary basis without any foundation. The maximum time a cargo container can be used as a temporary storage building is 360 days. Permits are required for temporary use.
8. Cargo containers shall be designed to withstand a 10 PSF uplift load when located in the floodplain. Cargo containers in the floodplain are not subject to elevation or flood venting requirements. Cargo containers are prohibited in the floodway.

**B. Permanent Storage Containers.**

1. Permanent storage containers are prohibited in flood hazard areas.
2. In addition to complying with all aspects of A above, cargo containers shall comply with the following:
  - a. Shall be anchored on concrete foundations capable of withstanding all imposed vertical and horizontal loads, the design shall be acceptable to the Building Division.
  - b. Any alterations to the container shall be designed and detailed by an engineer or architect licensed in the State of California.
  - c. Fire Safe Standards apply for residential projects.

**C. Containers for Occupancies other than Storage.**

1. In addition to complying with all aspects of A & B above, cargo containers shall comply with the following:

Standard

Sea-Land Cargo Containers As Storage Buildings

2. Shall comply with all applicable code requirements for the intended occupancy or use and shall have a code complying exit door, openable from the inside without the use of a key, tool, special knowledge or effort.
3. All required setbacks for the container shall be met for the occupancy identified.
  - a. Sprinklers are required.

**PERMIT INFORMATION**

**Fire Sprinkler Systems**

**Working plans shall be drawn:**

- Name of owner and occupant
- Location, including street address
- North arrow
- Ceiling construction
- Full height cross section (s) for clarity as needed including ceiling and roof construction
- Location of fire walls
- Location of partitions
- Occupancy of each area or room
- Location and size of concealed spaces, attics, closets and bathrooms
- Any small enclosures in which no sprinklers are to be installed
- Size of city water main in street, pressure, and whether dead-end or circulating and, if dead-end, direction and distance to nearest circulating main, and city main test results, including elevation of test hydrant
- Make, manufacturer, type, temperature rating and nominal orifice size of sprinklers