



**October, 2011**

## **Boxing, skidding, and other feats**

Business seems to be moving a little more these days -literally.

Companies are asking for more assistance in shipping equipment and goods involved in the manufacturing process. We're **building more shipping crates and skids, and helping to ship more goods than ever before.** Our experience in relocating an entire production plant speaks to some experience in this arena. We've had so many inquiries about shipping issues that we thought the topic was worth discussing in a newsletter. So let's keep moving...



## **On the skids**

A ingenious design more than a hundred years old, the skid is a remarkable tool. Typically just 48" X 40" in size and weighing around 30 pounds, your average skid can easily hold over a ton. Most pallets are made of recyclable hard and soft woods and cost less than ten dollars apiece, yet a pallet can be used a dozen times.

The development of the forklift pretty much parallels the development of the skid,

but even today **hi-lo trucks are not universally available** in other countries. So if you're shipping to a country where the receiver doesn't have a forklift that fits inside the truck *and* can lift your skidded shipment, better plan for what you might call an **"alternative method" of removing the skid from the truck**. In other words, they will wrap chains around the skid and simply drag it out of the truck. Which means your skid needs to be constructed to withstand that special treatment.



## What's in the box?

We've helped ship a wide variety of crated items in recent weeks. Conveyor systems, including electronic controls. Delicate testing equipment. Sewing machines. Dies and molds. Custom parts. Lockers. Dust collectors. You name it.



**What goes in the box determines how we construct it.** Sensitive test equipment travels in first class accommodations while lockers can make the trip in coach. The engineering aspects of their containers are different, yet some aspects are the same. Documentation and photos of the contents are necessary in both cases.

## Crates 'n barrels

Crates, like skids, are small wonders, carrying expensive machinery, parts, and other components critical to production. That's why ProBusS standard wooden crates are made with tough, 1/2" OSB or plywood. Depending on what you're shipping, we can include:

- handles
- hinges



- forklift runners
- casters
- ramps
- hasps and locks
- gussets
- plastic sheeting or wrapping
- foam cushioning
- metal or plastic construction
- custom design and engineering



Shipping between **different climates**? The crate will need gaps to allow for wood expansion and contraction. A **very large crate** may need cleats or joists. **Going airborne**? Wood crates are not allowed, so a plastic or metal crate is needed.

ProBusS can help you choose the best packaging method for your goods, build the container and load the truck to ensure that your shipment arrives safe and secure.

## "Please make sure your tray tables..."

The precise way your cargo is loaded is just as important as the container. **Maximizing a trailer load** to get the benefit of every square foot of space is one important consideration. So is how cargo is loaded in order to **minimize shifting during transport**.



ProBusS is often called on to load a truck and properly brace the load to ensure that nothing moves between Michigan and the final destination. Having experience in skid and crate engineering and construction helps, and so does a veteran of 17 years in the distribution business, who is on staff at ProBusS.

## Make the right moves

It's not just about the trip, it's about what goes on before and after the journey, too. ProBusS professionals can crate and load machinery for moving, but we can also **shut down and disconnect electrical, hydraulic, air, and water lines**, or reconnect them all. We can level machines and get them back up and running again.

Whether it's helping you **plan and budget a move**, coordinating with heavy movers, or **crating and shipping critical components**, we've made this trip before and we have the know-how to make sure it's done right.

When you need something crated, boxed, skidded, or otherwise prepared for shipping, give ProBusS a call. If we don't answer on the first ring, we may be out back, loading a truck.

Meanwhile, check out a brief story about the production plant that we helped move: [ProBusS plant relocation](#)



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-on site, on demand*

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