

# 40-Foot Ocean Container Shipping Program

## What is MedShare?

MedShare is a top-ranked non-profit organization (NGO) dedicated to improving healthcare and the environment through the efficient recovery and redistribution of surplus medical supplies and equipment from U.S. hospitals and manufacturers to healthcare facilities in developing countries. We have two distribution and volunteer centers: our headquarters in Atlanta, GA and another in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Since MedShare was founded in 1998, we have shipped over U.S. \$100 million worth of medical supplies and equipment in 750+ 40-foot containers to 85+ countries around the world, improving countless lives and saving over 2 million cubic feet of space from U.S. landfills.

## How does the Container Program work?

MedShare ships 40-foot containers of medical supplies and equipment to hospitals and clinics in the developing world. The average value of a container is approximately U.S. \$155,000 and contains 1,000 boxes of consumable supplies. The medical supplies available include masks, gloves, syringes, surgical instruments, drapes, IV sets, dressings, and thousands more. Containers include a small amount of durable medical and biomedical equipment which may include hospital beds, anesthesia machines, ultrasound units, and examination tables.

The advantage for your organization is that your designated beneficiary facility selects the exact medical supplies they need from our extensive inventory. As a charity ourselves, we request a sponsorship donation to help offset a portion of our direct operating costs, including the ocean freight shipping cost. Costs for transportation from the receiving port are the beneficiary's responsibility. MedShare's fundraising team is available to discuss strategies you might employ to securing funding for your project. We also have the capability of setting up an online fundraising webpage for your project if it meets certain criteria.



## How do I ship a container?

There are 6 steps for successfully shipping a container:

1. Secure funding for the sponsorship fee, which is typically U.S. \$20,000 - \$22,000, depending on the location, which includes shipping to the receiving port.
2. Complete an [online application](#).
3. Secure the necessary clearance documents from the government of the destination country confirming that this shipment will be allowing into the country duty-free. This is usually a formal letter from the Ministry of Finance or Treasury, but varies widely by country. (see Section A below)
4. Once the application is approved, your designated beneficiary completes a needs assessment with our Programs staff.
5. After being assigned a login and password from MedShare, select supplies to fill the container (typically 1,000 to 1,200 cases of consumable supplies (see Section B below) while our biomedical staff prepares a small amount of equipment based on the beneficiaries needs and requests.
6. After container arrives, the beneficiary will send photos of MedShare-donated supplies and equipment and impact stories to illustrate the shipment's impact.

Once these steps have been completed, we will provide you with access to start selecting your medical supplies and begin evaluating your equipment requests to fulfill the order as quickly as possible.

## **Section A:**

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### Tax Exoneration and Customs Clearance

This documentation often comes from the Ministry of Finance or Revenue Authority, depending on the country. Every country around the world has different requirements and guidelines for importation of goods. There are also differences between importing commercial goods versus humanitarian aid.

MedShare's shipments are considered humanitarian aid and, therefore, should be allowed into destination countries without being charged import taxes in many cases. Obtaining clearance to import humanitarian aid can often be a challenging and lengthy process, especially for organizations that do not have previous experience with this type of work. This part of the process can take several months, depending on the country and circumstances. While MedShare and your organization can support the beneficiary through detailed shipping documents, the beneficiary themselves often needs to conduct the tax exoneration process personally in-country.

MedShare's policy is not to release a shipment until we have received official documentation from the government authority of the destination country which confirms that the shipment will be allowed to enter the country as duty-free humanitarian aid.

MedShare requires first-time shipping partners to use the services of a local customs clearing agent in the destination country to ensure that there will be no issues related to getting the container into the country. These agents charge a fee for their service and are familiar with the process and documentation involved. Our programs staff can recommend clearing agents for beneficiaries.



### Section B:

#### Can I preview your inventory?

Our extensive database of approximately 10,000 items allows the container beneficiary to order exactly the supplies you need to deliver better care to their patients. In order to get an idea of the scope of medical supplies available from MedShare, log-on as a guest to view our inventory. *\*You will not see any medical equipment listed on this site. This is requested separately on the application.*

[Click here](#) to access our online inventory database.

- To view the current inventory of supplies in the Southeastern Regional Distribution Center, enter Agency Ref: DEMO and Password: DEMO
- To view the current inventory of supplies in the Western Regional Distribution Center, enter Agency Ref: Demo- W and Password: DEMO

A 40-foot container can hold approximately 1,000 boxes or 12,000 lbs. Our system keeps a running total of both quantity and weight so that container space can be maximized to its fullest extent.



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Order for MedShare Southeast - Demonstration (DEMO) Print | Help | Log Out

Supply Inventory | Your Order | Checkout Order | Delete All Items | Other

Show: Search for product  Type (All)

To remove an item from your order, change the quantity to 0

Go to page: 1

**You have selected a total of 22 items (155.2 Lbs). Your Order**  
[Printer friendly version of this page](#)

Gloves (Back to top)		Weight	Quantity in Box	Original Packaging	Box No	Order Qty
703048	Gloves, Chemotherapy, Exam, PF, Large, KN	11	150	Yes	646465	<input type="checkbox"/>
703047	Gloves, Chemotherapy, Exam, PF, Medium, KN	12.4	150	Yes	646320	<input type="checkbox"/>
703051	Gloves, Chemotherapy, Exam, PF, XL, KN	10.6	400	Yes	634145	<input type="checkbox"/>
703051	Gloves, Chemotherapy, Exam, PF, XL, KN	15.6	400	Yes	644744	<input type="checkbox"/>
705362	Gloves, Exam, Assorted Sizes by pound	13.6	13.6	Yes	644807	<input type="checkbox"/>
706179	Gloves, Exam, Latex, Powder Free, Med.-(6.5 - 7.5)	4.2	100	Yes	652384	<input type="checkbox"/>
712585	Gloves, Exam, Powder Free, Assorted Sizes	15.2	1180	Yes	645120	<input type="checkbox"/>
712585	Gloves, Exam, Powder Free, Assorted Sizes	15	1300	No	645119	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
712585	Gloves, Exam, Powder Free, Assorted Sizes	14	1500	Yes	645121	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
712585	Gloves, Exam, Powder Free, Assorted Sizes	9.8	1250	Yes	645166	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
712585	Gloves, Exam, Powder Free, Assorted Sizes	9	950	Yes	644942	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
712585	Gloves, Exam, Powder Free, Assorted Sizes	16.2	1500	No	644931	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
712585	Gloves, Exam, Powder Free, Assorted Sizes	7	140	No	644907	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
712585	Gloves, Exam, Powder Free, Assorted Sizes	17.2	670	Yes	651433	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
703039	Gloves, Exam, Powder Free, Lg. - (8 - 9)	20	2000	No	644887	<input type="checkbox"/>
703039	Gloves, Exam, Powder Free, Lg. - (8 - 9)	15	1500	Yes	644923	<input type="checkbox"/>
703039	Gloves, Exam, Powder Free, Lg. - (8 - 9)	15	1500	Yes	644988	<input type="checkbox"/>
703039	Gloves, Exam, Powder Free, Lg. - (8 - 9)	19.4	2000	Yes	645114	<input type="checkbox"/>

Container measurements are as follows:

English                      Metric

Length: 39 feet, 5 inches    12 meters

Width: 7 feet, 8 inches    2.3 meters

Height: 7 feet, 10 inches    2.4 meters

### Contact Information:

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