

Aerospace Cost + Waste Reduction | Case Study

Rethink! | Customer achieves packaging cost + waste reductions

CHALLENGE:

Aerospace client was awarded a contract to modify and retrofit Stow Bins on an existing fleet of 767 commercial aircraft. Stow Bins and retrofit kits were to be packed in the Seattle area and shipped via air freight to Germany for installation. Export packaging consisted of foam lined wood crates consolidated into several plywood overboxes.



Common practice in the aerospace industry is to take a conservative approach to packaging due to relative expense of the parts and unknown handling/storage conditions. This results in expensive over-packaging and excessive packaging materials.

SOLUTION:

Our initial approach was to develop a conservative packaging strategy for the initial shipments ensuring program milestones were met and parts arrived undamaged. We challenged this baseline packaging and researched the handling and storage methods in Germany. The airline customer advised that the crates were stored near the aircraft in a controlled environment and were manually carried onto the aircraft for installation.



Where feasible, we implemented corrugated cartons and minimized foam lining. Primary benefits were lower cost of packaging materials, weight/cube reductions, and reduction of packaging waste. These outcomes were also a key factor in the award of new business to our customer.

BENEFITS:

- \$45K cost reductions (packaging materials + air freight)
- 15% packaging material reduction (by weight)
- Key factor in award of new business

For a free consultation

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