Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (UN Recommendations Chapter 9) were issued by the United Nations, the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, to secure the safe transport of dangerous goods in packages where they are packed in containers for transport. Based on these recommendations, the IMDG Code was formulated to specify containers suitable for the international sea transportation on dangerous goods. These container specifications are also adopted in Japanese laws and therefore must be applied to dangerous goods containers for international transport. Similar container specifications have been also adopted for domestic transport of dangerous goods.

The type of containers and packagings are drum, wooden barrel, box, jerrican, bag and composite containers. The necessary performance items required for containers alone are specified as control items, and although there is a simple construction specification, there are no shape or dimensional specifications. Three different performance specifications have been set up, and the proper selection must be made according to the class of dangerous goods to be transported. Since the class of container and the type container and packagings are specified for each type of goods, reference to the IMDG Code is requested for sea transport, and to the Dangerous Goods Regulations in Fire Service Law for domestic transport.

1) High level dangerous goods ---- Packing Group I
2) Medium level dangerous goods ---- Packing Group II
3) Low level dangerous goods ---- Packing Group III

All containers and packagings for dangerous goods must be tested for performance, and required markings must be put on containers and packagings that have passed the test.