

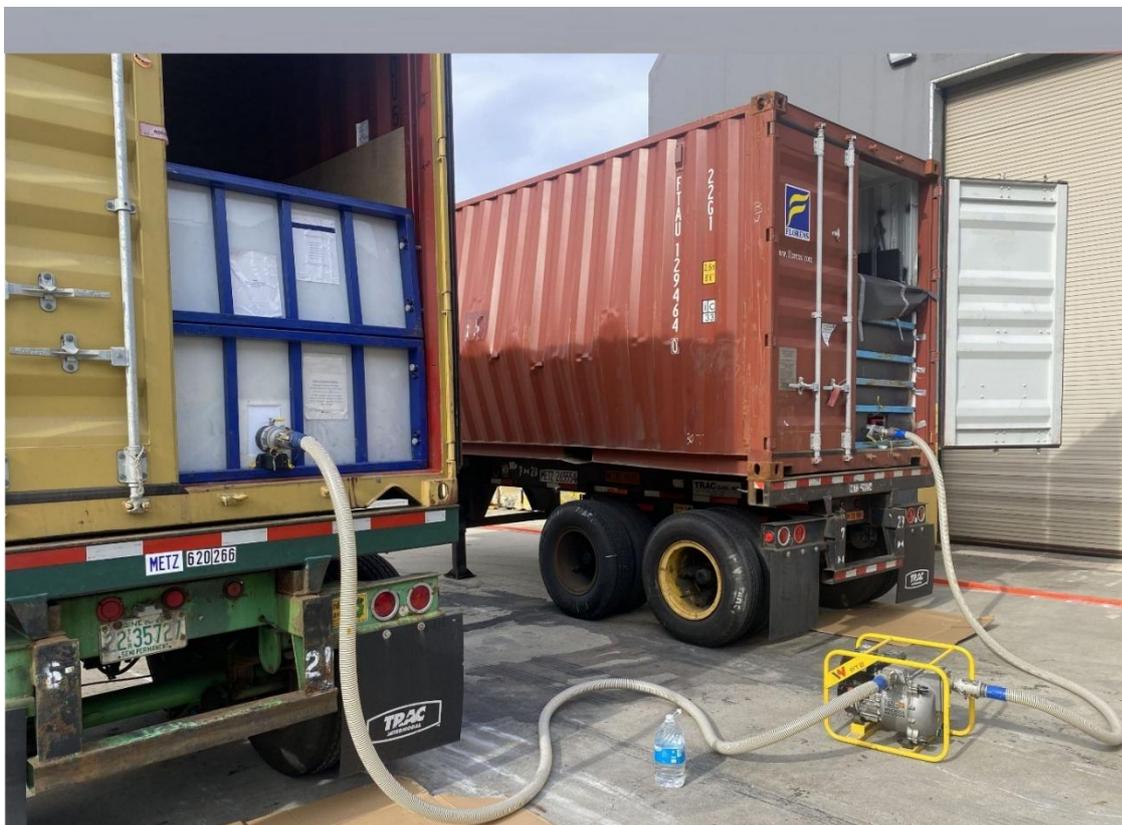
Mastering Flexi Bag Container Inspections: Excellence from Alex Stewart International India

In the world of global logistics, innovation often comes in the form of simple yet revolutionary solutions. Enter the **flexi bag** (also known as a flexitank) — a giant, flexible bladder that transforms a standard shipping container into an efficient vessel for transporting non-hazardous liquid products, particularly oils. Made from multiple layers of polyethylene with an outer woven polypropylene shell, flexi bags are emerging as a true game-changer. They offer cost savings, environmental benefits, and greater flexibility compared to traditional HDPE drums or barrels. Experts predict they will play a pivotal role in phasing out rigid packaging in the near future.

At Alex Stewart International India Private Limited (ASi India), we excel in providing comprehensive inspection, supervision, and analytical services for flexi bag container shipments. With over 25 years of expertise in India and backing from the global Alex Stewart International network spanning 40+ countries, we ensure your cargo arrives safely and meets all contractual specifications.

But what makes flexi bags so powerful? Their ability to maximize container space — holding up to 24,000 litres in a 20-foot container—while reducing waste and handling costs. The key to unlocking these benefits lies in proper **container stuffing**: a precise, safety-focused process that ensures leak-free transport across oceans and roads.

What is a Flexi Bag?



A flexi bag is essentially a disposable, high-strength liner that fits inside a standard dry cargo container. It's designed exclusively for non-hazardous liquids like edible oils, base oils, lubricants, and non-regulated chemicals. The multi-layer construction provides durability against pressure and abrasion, while the one-way valve system ensures secure filling and discharge.



Step-by-Step: The Flexi Bag Stuffing Process

Safety and precision are non-negotiable when handling bulk liquids. Here's the proven procedure for stuffing oil products into a flexi bag container.

1. Preparation: Setting the Foundation for Safety

Before anything enters the container, thorough inspection is critical.

- Inspect the container for cleanliness, dryness, and structural integrity. Remove any debris and check for protruding nails, sharp edges, or damage that could puncture the flexi bag.
- Install steel frames (bulkheads) along the side walls and at the door end. These reinforce the container against bulging or door blowout caused by liquid expansion and pressure during transit.

- Line the floor and walls with corrugated cardboard sheets. This acts as a protective cushion, preventing abrasion and extending the bag's lifespan.



Proper preparation prevents 99% of potential issues—skipping it risks catastrophic leaks.

2. Placement of the Flexi Bag

- Position the rolled or folded flexi bag in the center of the container floor.
- Carefully unfold and spread it evenly across the base.
- Align the valve flange through a pre-cut hole in the door-end cardboard, securing it adjacent to the steel bulkhead for protection during filling.

This step ensures even weight distribution and easy access for loading.

3. Filling the Flexi Bag: Controlled and Monitored

The heart of the process—where precision meets patience.

- Connect a flexible hose to the bottom-loading valve.
- Pump the liquid oil at a steady, controlled rate to avoid surges that could stress the bag.
- Continuously monitor expansion as the bag fills the container's length and width.
- Stop at the manufacturer's specified maximum capacity (typically 24,000 litres for a 20ft container).
- Use a flow meter for real-time volume tracking, but verify final net weight via certified weighbridge (gross minus tare).

A filled flexi bag in action:



4. Sampling for Quality Assurance

- Connect a sampling nozzle to the loading pipeline.
- Draw equal samples at regular intervals throughout filling.
- Composite the samples for lab analysis and distribute as required by clients or regulations.

This ensures the product meets quality standards from source to destination.

5. Final Check and Sealing

- Disconnect the hose and securely close the valve—double-check for leaks.
- Inspect the bulkhead for any bulging due to pressure.
- Close and seal the container doors only after everything passes inspection.

6. Documentation: The Paper Trail

Record all critical details:

- Product name and specifications
- Container number
- Flexi bag serial number
- Loaded weight
- Sampling and quality reports

Comprehensive documentation protects all parties and complies with international shipping regulations.

Why Flexi Bags Are the Future

Flexi bags aren't just an alternative—they're superior in many ways. They reduce packaging waste (disposable and recyclable), lower freight costs by maximizing payload, and minimize handling risks compared to drums. As sustainability pressures mount and supply chains demand efficiency, flexi bags are poised to dominate bulk non-hazardous liquid transport.

By mastering the stuffing process outlined above, companies can ensure safe, reliable shipments while gaining a competitive edge.

Why Flexi Bag Inspections Matter

Flexi bag operations involve high risks: improper container preparation can lead to punctures, uneven filling to bulging or door blowouts, and inadequate sampling to quality disputes. Independent third-party supervision mitigates these risks, protecting your investment and reputation.

Our inspectors oversee every critical stage:

- **Container Pre-Inspection:** Checking for cleanliness, dryness, sharp edges, and structural integrity to prevent bag damage.
- **Flexi Bag Installation Supervision:** Ensuring proper placement, unfolding, and securing of bulkheads and protective linings (e.g., corrugated cardboard).
- **Loading and Filling Oversight:** Monitoring controlled pumping rates, expansion, and volume via flow meters, with final weight verification on certified weighbridges.
- **Sampling and Quality Control:** Drawing representative samples at intervals for composite analysis, ensuring product integrity.
- **Final Sealing and Documentation:** Leak checks, bulkhead inspections, secure sealing, and detailed reporting on weights, serial numbers, and conditions.

Our services align with international standards, including ISO/IEC 17020:2012 for inspections and ISO 17025:2017 for laboratory analysis.

Why Choose Alex Stewart International India?

In a competitive market, partnering with ASi India sets you apart. Here's why clients trust us for their flexi bag shipments:

- **Pan-India Presence:** With headquarters in Chennai, 13 strategically located offices, and 5 advanced laboratories, we provide rapid response across major ports and industrial hubs.

- **Global Expertise, Local Insight:** As the official member of the Alex Stewart International Group, we combine worldwide best practices with deep knowledge of Indian regulations and logistics challenges.
- **Accredited Reliability:** ISO-certified processes ensure impartial, accurate results accepted globally—ideal for insurance claims, trade disputes, or contractual compliance.
- **Specialized in Liquid Cargoes:** Decades of experience in vegetable oils, chemicals, crude oils, and petroleum products, backed by dedicated teams for marine surveys, cargo superintendence, and analytical testing.
- **Risk Mitigation and Peace of Mind:** Our supervision minimizes losses from leaks or contamination, while comprehensive reports support smooth customs clearance and buyer satisfaction.
- **Commitment to Excellence:** A team of seasoned professionals delivers methodical, transparent services, earning us a reputation as one of India's most reliable surveyors.

Whether you're exporting edible oils or importing base oils, ASi India's flexi bag inspection services safeguard your supply chain. Choose us for precision, professionalism, and proven results.

Contact us today at www.alexstewartindia.com to discuss your next shipment. Trust ASi India—where quality inspection meets global standards.