# 1 Scope

This recommended practice describes general crating methods available for protection against physical damage, vibration, pilferage, and climate. It also describes the various procedures and problems involved in handling, shipping, and storage. It is the intent of this recommended practice to present a broad outline of the various practices so that due consideration may be given during the design and specification stages. The final selections will depend upon size and type of control center, ultimate destination, construction schedules, and owner preference.

# 2 Definitions

For the purposes of this recommended practice, the following definitions apply.

**air ride:** An air suspension system installed on some moving van trailers to provide shock and vibration control for handling delicate equipment.

**container:** A special-purpose, reusable enclosure for shipping cargo via truck, rail, and ship.

**control center:** An equipment structure or group of structures from which a system is measured, controlled, and monitored.

**clinched:** The bending of the excess length of a nail so that the sharp, protruding point is forced back into the nailed material.

**crate:** A temporary enclosure used to provide protection of an item during shipping, handling, and storage.

**dunnage:** Loose material used around an item to prevent damage during shipment.

**hygroscopic:** Material that will readily absorb and retain moisture.

**nailing and blocking clip:** A special fastener for joining fiberboard sheet material to wood framing.

**ULD, unit load devices:** A special-purpose, reusable enclosure for shipping cargo via aircraft.

# 3 Design considerations

Much of the detail involved in crating, shipping, and handling will be satisfactorily provided for by traffic managers, brokers, trained shipping personnel, and skilled carpenters. However, if certain methods are preferred or required because of conditions, these must be included in the specifications. Table 1 provides an outline of shipping methods, size limitations, and other general handling considerations that can be used as a design checklist.