

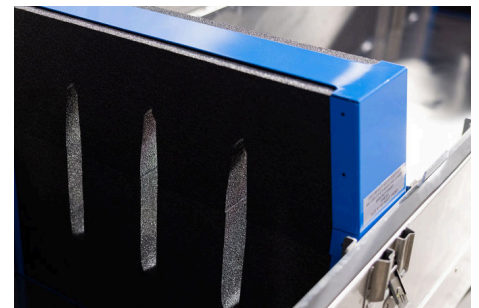


MISSION ACCOMPLISHED—REDEFINING RELIABILITY IN AEROSPACE LOGISTICS



OVERVIEW

A global leader in aerospace innovation and one of the largest helicopter manufacturers was facing a persistent problem with the safe transport of their helicopter blades and other sensitive components. Their existing wood and fiberglass shipping containers were frequently damaged during handling, posing a significant threat to the high-value cargo inside. To address this challenge, the helicopter OEM partnered with Americase to engineer a rugged, multi-use packaging solution that would enhance safety, reduce repair frequency, and improve operational efficiency.



THE PROBLEM

The helicopter OEM faced critical issues with their traditional shipping containers:

- **Frequent Container Damage:** Made from wood and fiberglass, the containers were easily punctured or cracked by forklift blades—even when empty.
- **Risk to High-Value Cargo:** The fragile containers often led to damage of helicopter blades - an expensive and operationally disruptive problem.
- **Costly Maintenance:** Containers required weekly repairs due to wear and tear from routine handling.
- **Incompatibility with Demands:** The construction and durability of the containers were inadequate for the rigorous requirements of transporting delicate rotorcraft components.
- **Operational Inefficiencies:** The need for frequent repairs and replacements caused delays and increased supply chain costs.

The helicopter manufacturer needed a more durable, reusable, and user-friendly solution to support both domestic and international logistics.



THE SOLUTION

Americase collaborated closely with the customer to design and manufacture a new line of containers specifically built to address their needs:

- **Rugged Construction:** Double-walled aluminum with an extra .125" thick kickplate to withstand forklift impacts.
- **Ventilation and Debris Prevention:** Offset internal and external vents that allow airflow while keeping out FOD (foreign object debris). ▶

CASE STUDY

- **Ease of Use:** Gas shocks on the lid for one person access, safety chains to prevent tipping, and HDPE (high-density polyethylene) feet for smooth sliding.
- **Field-Repairable to Minimize Downtime:** Containers designed to be field-repairable, eliminating the need to return containers to the OEM for repairs.
- **Durability and Corrosion Resistance:** Stainless steel rivets, handles, hinges, and latches prevent rust.
- **Modular & Versatile:** Universal design is adaptable for various part numbers and both single- and multi-blade configurations using custom-engineered insert systems.
- **Operational Compatibility:** Forkliftable design that maintains center of gravity integrity.

These innovations addressed the core concerns of cargo protection, container longevity, and user safety.

RESULTS

Americase's solution significantly transformed the helicopter manufacturer's logistics operations:

- **Cost Savings:** The helicopter OEM previously spent \$4,000 every two weeks replacing damaged containers. With Americase's long-lasting design, those recurring costs were virtually eliminated.
- **Asset Protection:** The robust containers effectively protected blades and components worth hundreds of thousands of dollars from avoidable damage during transit.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Reduced maintenance, downtime, and shipping delays while safer handling procedures contributed to a smoother logistics process.
- **Expanded Use:** After success with blade containers, the customer expanded Americase's solutions to other rotorcraft components. The partnership's success led their German division to transition their entire container fleet to Americase designs.

The partnership helped the helicopter OEM transition from a cycle of repairs and replacements to a streamlined, reliable system built for the aerospace industry's high standards.

CONCLUSION

Americase's custom-engineered packaging solution brought a significant transformation to the helicopter OEM's logistics operations. By eliminating frequent container damage and reducing the risk to high-value rotorcraft components, Americase helped the helicopter manufacturer enhance safety, streamline handling, and drive down recurring costs. What began as a need for more durable blade containers evolved into a comprehensive overhaul of their approach to protective transport packaging. The result is a more resilient, cost-effective, and operationally efficient supply chain—designed to meet the demanding standards of the aerospace industry.

Continued Partnership

The relationship between Americase and one of the largest helicopter manufacturers has continued to grow, marked by expanded use and international adoption:

Expanded Scope: Helicopter OEM extended Americase's solutions beyond helicopter blades to additional rotorcraft components.

Global Adoption: The OEM's German division transitioned its entire rotorcraft container fleet to Americase designs after seeing significant performance and cost benefits.

Ongoing Collaboration:

Americase continues to support the helicopter OEM with new designs, field support, and packaging innovations tailored to evolving component needs.

Shared Goals: The partnership is driven by a joint focus on safety, operational efficiency, and sustainability in aerospace logistics.