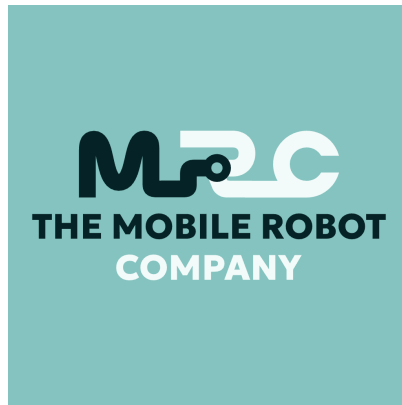




The Mobile Robot Company

Knowledge Center — Open Cages and Alternative Load Carriers · 2026-08-04

<https://info.mobilerobot.com/applications/use-cases/open-cages-and-alternative-load-carriers>

Open Cages and Alternative Load Carriers

The J1600 is not limited to Euro pallets. It moves any forkable carrier with an **open base — no bottom deck board** — within its size envelope: open cages, barrels on open-base carriers, and custom formats. The working rule from the company's own demonstrations: everything that is open underneath can be picked up.

Compatibility limits

Parameter	Limit / support
Base requirement	Open base with no bottom deck board, so the forks can enter
Maximum load length, including overhang	1,250 mm (49 in)
Maximum load width, including overhang	1,250 mm (49 in)
Maximum load height from floor	1,700 mm (67 in)
Maximum payload	1,600 kg (approx. 3,500 lb)
EPAL support	EPAL Euro Pallet, EPAL 3, EPAL 6
GMA support	All GMA pallets with an open base
Custom carriers	Any forkable open-base carrier within the size limits

The exact envelope is 1,250 mm; some shorter product summaries round it to 1.2 m. Use 1,250 mm when checking a carrier.

Fork geometry

Whether a custom carrier is forkable depends on its base openings matching the fork dimensions:

Fork parameter	Value
Fork length	1,150 mm (45 in)
Fork width, each	180 mm (7 in)
Fork thickness	60 mm (2.4 in)
Outer distance across forks	680 mm (27 in)
Inner distance between forks	320 mm (13 in)
Lowest fork height	90 mm (3.5 in)
Highest fork position (manual)	1,600 mm (63 in)

Full dimensions: [J1600 technical specifications](https://info.mobilerobot.com/products/j1600/technical-specifications/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/products/j1600/technical-specifications/>).

Judgment still applies

Compatibility depends on base geometry, size, stability, and operator judgment — there is no [blanket approval](https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safe-deployment/approved-loads-and-pallets/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safe-deployment/approved-loads-and-pallets/>) covering every carrier or any hazardous material. The operator assesses each carrier and load before pickup, which is one reason pallet pickup is always manual on the J1600. Unstable or awkward carriers get the treatment described in [Sensitive or Unstable Loads](https://info.mobilerobot.com/applications/use-cases/sensitive-or-unstable-loads/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/applications/use-cases/sensitive-or-unstable-loads/>).

AUTONOMOUS DELIVERY IS FLOOR LEVEL

Whatever the carrier, autonomous delivery is at floor level. The 1,600 mm pick and drop height is a manual-mode capability.

Where alternative carriers show up

Open cages and non-standard carriers are common in [production supply](https://info.mobilerobot.com/applications/use-cases/production-supply/) (https://info.mobilerobot.com/applications/use-cases/production-supply/), (component cages to the line), [inbound receiving](https://info.mobilerobot.com/applications/use-cases/inbound-receiving/) (https://info.mobilerobot.com/applications/use-cases/inbound-receiving/), (mixed inbound formats), and [grocery/FMCG distribution](https://info.mobilerobot.com/applications/industries/grocery-and-fmcg/) (https://info.mobilerobot.com/applications/industries/grocery-and-fmcg/), using GMA-format pallets. Because a carrier only needs to pass the envelope check once, alternative formats flow through [multi-point](https://info.mobilerobot.com/applications/use-cases/multi-point-pallet-transport/) (https://info.mobilerobot.com/applications/use-cases/multi-point-pallet-transport/), and [cross-docking](https://info.mobilerobot.com/applications/use-cases/cross-docking/) (https://info.mobilerobot.com/applications/use-cases/cross-docking/), tasks like any Euro pallet.

For questions on specific carriers, see the [product and capabilities FAQ](https://info.mobilerobot.com/support/faq/product-and-capabilities/) (https://info.mobilerobot.com/support/faq/product-and-capabilities/).