

The Container Ships

The proposed North Carolina International Terminal will be designed to accommodate the largest container ships in service today, which are also the largest ships of any type in service. The design parameters are:

Length over all: 1263 feet
Beam: 185 feet
Draft: 50 feet

The *Emma Maersk* is the first of six such vessels. That vessel has the most powerful diesel engine ever built (109,000 horsepower), driving a single screw, and is manned by a crew of 13.



The Emma Maersk

The new locks at the Panama Canal, due to open in 2014, will not accommodate these vessels, because of the beam. The maximum size ship, called “new Panamax,” would have a beam of 160 feet. Overall length and draft would be the same, 1263 feet long, drawing 50 feet.

For comparison, these are the lengths of other large ships:

<i>USS North Carolina</i>	729 feet
<i>Exxon Valdez</i>	987 feet
<i>USS Enterprise</i> (the largest naval vessel in the world)	1123 feet

