5.0 INTRODUCTION

The SGT (see Figure 1) is part of a transportation system primarily intended for payloads that either are too large for shipment by conventional means or require special handling, such as aerospace hardware.

![Super Guppy Transport](image)

**Figure 1. Super Guppy Transport**

In the past, the SGT has been used to transport rocket segments, space station components, aircraft, and test articles. The aircraft is adaptable to accommodate different payloads; however, payloads must be designed to integrate with the SGT, either directly or through the use of a SGT-specific pallet (see Figure 2).

Typically, cargo is secured to a pallet and then loaded into the aircraft (see Figure 3). The tops of the pallets are flat and have threaded holes used to secure the payload. Normally, NASA-provided tie-down rings, cargo chains, and chain adjustment turnbuckles are used; however, bolts may be substituted for the rings in the event that a payload or its supporting structure can be bolted directly to the pallet. While several pallets are available for customer use (refer to Section 8.1, Pallets), a purpose-built fixture can be used in lieu of a pallet.