

# Freight Classification

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The National Motor Freight Classification (NMFC) system is a standardized method designed to give consumers a uniform pricing structure when transporting freight. There are 18 classes that a shipped package may fall under with class 50 being the least expensive, to class 500 as the most expensive. The number assigned to an item is important to freight carriers in determining the tariffs, which in turn determine the price charged to you. Online calculators are available with instructions on how to determine freight class so that everyone can easily understand the process.

The **National Motor Freight Classification** is an industry standard that establishes comparative shipping rates for commodities moving as less than truckload in North America. In the classification, commodities are rated according to density, value, how easily they are handled and how easily they are stowed. The commodities are then assigned one of 18 classes ranging from 50 to 500. The higher a class is, the higher the shipping rate per weight. The NMFC is published by the [National Motor Freight Traffic Association](#), and is available in print and online additions.

## Important

If you book the wrong freight, it cost the firm money due to re classifying the freight and your rates are not valued. Meaning the rates you quote are not correct. You must classify the freight exactly in order to quote freight.

## 10 Things to consider in Classifying Freight

**1. Learn the things that will determine the freight class of your item, including load ability and handling characteristics, weight, density, and the product's susceptibility to damage.**

**2. Know what kind of container your item will be shipped in.**

There are many different types of allowable packaging systems for freight including, but not limited to, pallets, drums, reels, crates, tubes, or bundles.

**3. Determine the basic description of the freight being transported.**

Be able to describe what material the item being shipped is made of.

**4. Determine if your package contains hazardous materials that need to be shipped in a specialized manner.**

The U.S. Department of Transportation's code of federal regulations, title 49 defines hazardous materials.

**5. Measure the length, width, and height of the object to be shipped.**

**6. Weigh the object being shipped with its packaging.**

Sometimes a weight must be estimated, especially if the object cannot be packed until you have determined its class and know the packing requirements.

**7. Determine the density of the shipment by calculating the pounds per cubic foot.** Some online calculators will do this step for you by asking for the weight and dimensions of the shipment. You should calculate the density yourself to double-check any quotes given to you.

**8. Find an online calculator to determine the object's freight class.** [Online Calculator](#)

**9. Fill in the boxes with the appropriate values, and push the submit button.**

- If you are using a calculator with a particular shipper, you may have to sign in or create an account.
- Some shippers will ask that a telephone number or email address be supplied so that they can call you with a quote for the freight class of your package.

## 10. Contact the National Motor Freight Traffic Association (NMFTA) to get help in determining freight class. [NMFC](#)

Freight classes are designed to help you get common standardized freight pricing for your shipment when working with different carriers, warehouses and brokers. Freight classes are defined by the National Motor Freight Traffic Association (NMFTA) and made available through the NMFC or [National Motor Freight Classification](#).

Freight classes (there are 18 of them) are based on weight, length and height, density, ease of handling, value and liability from things like theft, damage, break-ability and spoilage. For the most part, the lower the NMFC class number, the lower the freight charge. Part of FML's job is to help you figure out your NMFC freight class, insuring the specialized code is correct. This insures that you get correct and consistent pricing for your freight. The following table describes the NMFC classes and is meant for general guidance in picking your freight class, a number of factors influence what class your shipment ends up in. You should contact FML Freight Representative to determine an accurate freight class.

Class Name	Cost	Notes, Examples	Weight Range Per Cubic Foot
<b>Class 50 – Clean Freight</b>	Lowest Cost	Fits on standard shrink-wrapped 4X4 pallet, very durable	over 50 lbs
Class 55		Bricks, cement, mortar, hardwood flooring	35-50 pounds
Class 60		Car accessories & car parts	30-35 pounds
Class 65		Car accessories & car parts, bottled beverages, books in boxes	22.5-30 pounds
Class 70		Car accessories & car parts, food items, automobile engines	15 to 22.5 pounds
Class 77.5		Tires, bathroom fixtures	13.5 to 15 pounds
Class 85		Crated machinery, cast iron stoves	12-13.5 pounds
Class 92.5		Computers, monitors, refrigerators	10.5-12 pounds
Class 100		boat covers, car covers, canvas, wine cases, caskets	9-10.5 pounds
Class 110		cabinets, framed artwork, table saw	8-9 pounds
Class 125		Small Household appliances	7-8 pounds
Class 150		Auto sheet metal parts, bookcases,	6-7 pounds
Class 175		Clothing, couches stuffed furniture	5-6 pounds
Class 200		Auto sheet metal parts, aircraft parts, aluminum table, packaged mattresses,	4-5 pounds
Class 250		Bamboo furniture, mattress and box spring, plasma TV	3-4 pounds
Class 300		wood cabinets, tables, chairs setup, model boats	2-3 pounds
Class 400		Deer antlers	1-2 pounds
<b>Class 500 – Low Density or High Value</b>	Highest Cost	Bags of gold dust, ping pong balls	Less than 1 lbs.

Getting it wrong will cost you. If you incorrectly classify your item to be shipped it can be reclassified by the freight carrier. Disputing this is difficult, time consuming and you will be charged the difference (usually without a discount).