



FREIGHT CLASSES

Freight Classification for LTL: What it is and best practices

Why does freight class matter? Because proper classification saves time and money. Avoiding the time and expense of a carrier reclassing your freight streamlines your shipping. And packaging your shipment to allow for the lowest class possible affects your rate.

What is freight class? The classification used by the National Motor Freight Traffic Association (NMFTA) to establish a commodity's transportability. There are 18 classes ranging from 50 to 500, based on four essential **characteristics**:

- An item's weight and dimensions determine its **density**, measured in pounds per cubic foot. The higher the density, the lower the class and the lower the cost, as the carrier can transport more high-density products than low-density, space-eating products, thus earning more per load.
- How the shipment can be arranged or transported with other freight is called **stowability**. Considerations include hazmat status and shape, such as oversize, long, or odd dimensions.
- Some qualities, such as dimensions, fragility, and packaging, determine if special **handling** is needed when freight is loaded and unloaded.
- **Liability** represents the probability of threat, damage (to the shipment or adjacent freight), and perishability.

What are NMFC codes? Each LTL shipping item has an associated NMFC code. These codes are recorded in a continually updated database and help determine the freight classification. Density of an object affects the class, so items with the same NMFC code can ship with different classes. Some items have permanent classes regardless of size or weight.

Freight Class Tips:

- **Include all information** on the Bill of Lading, including NMFC code and freight description.
- If you do not already know your freight class, **use the class suggested** by the TMS when you build the quote and input the weight and dimensions.
- **Beware of carrier specifics** regarding re-classes and inspections. Some have stricter limitations than others.
- **Don't lowball** your freight class. In the end, you'll pay more due to penalties and constant re-classes.

How do I find my freight class? If you don't know, ask us, and we'll be happy to help you, but below is a table of the most common goods and classes.

For more terms and definitions, check our Glossary of Logistics & Supply Chain Management Terms (<https://www.il2000.com/glossary>).

FREIGHT CLASSES

Class Name	Samples	Weight Per Cubic Foot	Cost
Class 50 – Clean Freight	Fits on standard shrink-wrapped 4X4 pallet, strapping material, flour	Over 50 lbs.	Lowest
Class 55	Bricks, cement, mortar, hardwood flooring, cloths or rags, magazines, copy paper	35 – 50 lbs	
Class 60	Car accessories & car parts, steel cables, used tires, stone blocks, glass, moldings	30 – 35 lbs	
Class 65	Car parts & accessories, bottled beverages, books in boxes, conveyors, chocolate in boxes, electric cords, tile	22.5 – 30 lbs	
Class 70	Newspapers, wooden pencils, machinery, caskets, unassembled furniture, food items, automobile engines	15 – 22.5 lbs	
Class 77.5	Tires, bathroom fixtures, garments, shirts/pants, snowplows,	13.5 – 15 lbs.	
Class 85	Crated machinery, transmissions, clutches, doors, CDs/DVDs, motorcycle engine	12 – 13.5 lbs	
Class 92.5	Computers, monitors, refrigerators and freezers, gas-powered generators, cabinets, kiosk or ATMs	10.5 – 12 lbs	
Class 100	Vacuum, boat & car covers, canvas, wine cases, caskets	9 – 10.5 lbs	
Class 110	Cabinets, framed paintings & artwork, table saw, metalworking	8 – 9 lbs	
Class 125	Small household appliances, pictures/posters in boxes, exhibit booths, vending machines	7 – 8 lbs	
Class 150	ATV, jet skis, motorcycles, assembled wooden furniture, work stations	6 – 7 lbs	
Class 175	Clothing, couches, stuffed furniture, metal cabinets,	5 – 6 lbs	
Class 200	TVs, aircraft parts, aluminum table, packaged mattresses, snowmobiles	4 – 5 lbs	
Class 250	Bamboo furniture, engine hoods, mattresses and box springs, unassembled couch, plasma TV	3 – 4 lbs	
Class 300	Wood cabinets, tables, chairs, model boats, kayaks/canoes, chassis	2 – 3 lbs	
Class 400	Deer antlers	1 – 2 lbs	
Class 500 (Low Density or High Value)	Bags of gold dust, ping pong balls	Less than 1 lb.	Highest