

5 Tips to Avoid LTL Reclassification and Reweighs

Your guide to selecting an accurate freight class and avoiding unexpected costs.

Selecting the right freight class for your **less-than-truckload (LTL)** shipments is more complex than it seems.

Freight shipping classes provide a uniform way to measure freight of varying sizes and weights across all industries.

The National Motor Freight Classification (NMFC) determines a commodity's shipping class by four main measurements:



Density

A shipment's weight per cubic foot and how much space it takes up



Stowability

How efficiently a shipment can co-exist with other freight in transit



Handling

How difficult it is to move your shipment or how many special services are required for pickup and delivery



Liability

The likelihood that a shipment will be damaged or stolen in transit or how fragile your freight is

With 18 identified classes and countless individual subclasses of commodities, it's easy to select the wrong shipping class, causing you to either pay too much for an incorrect class or pay reweigh penalties for freight reclassification.

Avoid Unexpected Costs and Fees with the Following Five Tips:

#1

Pack with Precision

Identify what you are shipping and how it is being shipped to make sure all information is complete and accurate. Shipping on a pallet and shipping in a box may be two entirely different freight classes, even if the freight being shipped is exactly the same.

#2

Take Exact Measurements

Measure the exact dimensions of your freight and pallet. A "standard" pallet can mean any number of sizes, so you'll want to make sure you measure the actual pallet being used. Being a few inches off could lead to freight reclassification.

#3

Weigh Your Entire Shipment

Weigh your full LTL shipment and be sure to avoid rounding up or down, especially since that estimate can cause a shift in your shipment's freight class. Carriers use precise digital scales and sophisticated laser tools to measure the weight and dimension of your freight. Ensure that your measurements are accurate beforehand to save time and money from an unexpected change in shipping class.

#4

Determine Your Shipment's Density

Calculate the density of your shipment when necessary. Shipping class is based on your freight's density for some commodities with a wide range of weights, like car parts or machinery. Knowing how your commodity will be classified and providing an accurately calculated density will help you find the correct freight shipping class for your shipment.

#5

Leverage a 3PL

Verify your measurements and calculations with a 3PL to make sure you've chosen the correct freight class for your shipment. These LTL freight experts have tools and resources that drill down to the specific freight class and sub-class for any commodity, allowing them to accurately determine and provide the freight class for all your shipments.

Save Time and Money

Ready to avoid costly freight reclassifications and reweighs? **Contact a GlobalTranz expert today!**