

What is freight class?

Here's your tip sheet



Below, we provide a quick guide to the most important items to understand about freight class. Be sure to accurately class your freight or you will be subject to unexpected costs when it is reclassified by carriers!

- Class is designed to get standardized freight pricing for less-than-truckload (LTL) shipments.
- Classifications are determined by the National Motor Freight Traffic Association (NMFTA) and published in the National Motor Freight Classification (NMFC) guide.
- Each commodity or type of product is assigned an NMFC number and class for LTL freight shipments.
- System includes 18 classes that shipments may fall under from class 50 (least expensive) to 500 (most expensive).
- Class assigned to a commodity determines the tariffs and the price charged on that shipment.
- NMFTA has an additional class table for true density-based items absent any unusual or significant handling, stowability or liability characteristics.



Density & Volume

The density is the space the item occupies in relation to its weight.



Stowability

A quantifiable stowability classification represents the difficulty in loading and carrying these items.



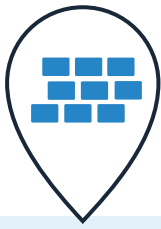
Handling

A classification that represents ease or difficulty of loading and carrying the freight is assigned to the items.



Liability

Liability is the probability of freight theft or damage, or damage to adjacent freight.



50 55 60 65 70 77.5 85 92.5 100 110 125 150 175 200 250 300 400 500

FREIGHT CLASSES

What are the 18 Different Types of Freight Class?

There are 18 freight classes, ranging from 50 (least expensive) to 500 (most expensive). Each class also corresponds to a commodity category, such as car parts and accessories (class 60) or couches and stuffed furniture (class 175).

Freight Class Example

- 1. Find the NMFC number** of items based on the description in the NMFC book or by using a software program such as ClassIT or FastClass. The NMFC for auto parts for interior is 18430. To properly freight class a shipment of 1 pallet of auto parts for interior, we need to know the pallet dimension and weight.
- 2. Accurately weigh and measure your shipment.** This product ships on a standard pallet. The dimensions are 48" x 40" x 45.5" and the weight including pallet is 243.2 lbs.
- 3. Calculate volume** (Length x Width x Height): 48" x 40" x 45.5" = **87,360** cubic inches
Convert to cubic feet: 87,360" / 1,728 = **50.6** cubic feet
Calculate density (Weight/Volume): 243.2 lbs / 50.6 cubic feet = **4.8 lbs. PCF** (per cubic foot)
 So, using the chart below, we can conclude that the freight class would be **200**.

	FREIGHT CLASS	COMMODITY EXAMPLES	DENSITY (PER CUBIC FT.)
LEAST EXPENSIVE	... 85	Crated machinery, cast iron stoves	12 - 13.5 lbs.
	92.5	Computers, monitors, refrigerators	10.5 - 12 lbs.
	100	Boat covers, car covers, canvases	9 - 10.5 lbs.
	110	Cabinets, framed artwork, table saw	8 - 9 lbs.
	125	Small household appliances	7 - 8 lbs.
MOST EXPENSIVE	150	Auto sheet metal parts, bookcases	6 - 7 lbs.
	175	Clothing and furniture	5 - 6 lbs.
	200	Auto sheet metal parts, aircraft parts	4 - 5 lbs.
	250	Wood cabinets, tables	3 - 4 lbs.
	300...	Deer antlers	2 - 3 lbs.

We can help!

Need additional help with your LTL freight classification?

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