

How to determine freight class



Freight classes, also known as NMFC Codes, are maintained by the NMFTA to standardize shipping rates across many different kinds of commodities. Below are four things to consider when determining your shipment's freight class:

1. Commodity/Density

Some commodities have pre-defined freight classes. Other commodities are determined by density (total weight divided by cubic feet)

2. Stowability

If there are loading regulations, or the shape/material of an object makes it difficult to load, it can have a higher freight class

3. Handling

Objects that are heavy, fragile, hazardous, or shaped such that they require special handling can have a higher freight class

4. Liability

Objects that are easily damaged, stolen, or can cause damage to other freight can have a higher freight class

| Freight Class | | Example Commodities | Density (lbs/cubic foot) |
|-----------------|------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Least expensive | 50 | Nuts, bolts, steel rods | 50+ |
| | 55 | Hardwood flooring, bricks | 35 - 50 |
| | 60 | Ceramic tiles, car parts | 30 - 35 |
| | 65 | Books, bottled beverages | 22.5 - 30 |
| | 70 | Food items, paper in boxes | 15 - 22.5 |
| | 77.5 | Tires, bathroom fixtures | 13.5 - 15 |
| | 85 | Crated machinery, pharmaceuticals | 12 - 13.5 |
| | 92.5 | Computers, monitors, refrigerators | 10.5 - 12 |
| | 100 | Car & boat covers, wine cases | 9 - 10.5 |
| | 110 | Cabinets, framed artwork | 8 - 9 |
| Most expensive | 125 | Small household appliances | 7 - 8 |
| | 150 | Auto sheet metal parts, bookcases | 6 - 7 |
| | 175 | Clothing, couches, stuffed furniture | 5 - 6 |
| | 200 | Sheet metal, packaged mattresses | 4 - 5 |
| | 250 | Flat screen TVs, bamboo furniture | 3 - 4 |
| | 300 | Wood cabinets, tables, grass | 2 - 3 |
| | 400 | Light fixtures | 1 - 2 |
| | 500 | Bags of gold dust, ping pong balls | < 1 |