

NMFC® SNAPSHOT: How Freight Class is Determined

Determining your freight class is a vital step to managing your LTL freight costs.

Freight classes are defined by the National Motor Freight Traffic Association and are made available through the National Motor Freight Classification® (NMFC®).

There are 18 different freight classes, ranging between 50 and 500.¹

The higher the class, the more expensive shipping costs are per pound.

Four factors are considered when determining freight class. →

FOR HELP DETERMINING YOUR FREIGHT CLASS:

- Purchase the NMFC book available at www.nmfta.org
- Contact your local XPO service center for help determining your appropriate freight class.

✓ DENSITY

- The amount of space your shipment takes up in relation to its weight.
- Density is found by dividing the weight of your shipment in pounds by its total volume (cubic feet) (Weight / Length x Width x Height = Density).²
- Determine your freight's density using our XPO Shipment Density Calculator on LTL.xpo.com.

✓ HANDLING

- The ease or difficulty of handling freight and the impact on the transportability of it.
- Most freight is palletized, packaged and easily handled with a pallet jack or forklift.
- Some freight is difficult to handle and may require special care or attention.²

✓ STOWABILITY

- The ability of freight to be shipped with other commodities or "stowed" in an LTL trailer. Most freight fits in LTL trailers and can be arranged with other commodities.
- Some shipments present limitations on a carrier's ability to load or unload freight safely. These limitations can be hazardous materials, excessive weight or length or freight with unusual shape or features which causes a carrier to be unable to load freight near it.²

✓ LIABILITY

- The likelihood of freight being stolen, damaged or damaging adjacent freight, perishability, hazardous features and value per pound.
- Value per pound allows a carrier to understand a shipment's potential liability. There is an established value guideline to provide aid to carriers when identifying class based on these characteristics.²

(1) National Motor Freight Traffic Association, Inc. The National Motor Freight Classification®. Retrieved from <http://www.nmfta.org/pages/nmfc> 22 Mar. 2017.

(2) National Motor Freight Traffic Association, Inc. (2016, Mar 18). National Motor Freight Classification Procedures. Retrieved from <http://www.nmfta.org/documents/CCSB/CCSB%20Procedures.pdf> 22 Mar. 2017.