

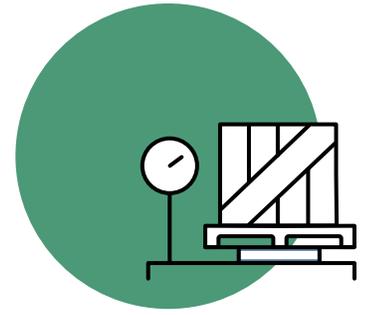
GUIDE TO ACCURATE FREIGHT QUOTES

No one likes finding unexpected fees on their final shipping invoice. To avoid these surprises, it's important to understand the factors that can lead to inaccurate quoting, since even small omissions or mistakes can be costly.

Unishippers' Guide to Accurate Freight Quotes will give you the tips you need to get the most accurate freight quotes possible, helping you avoid those pesky billing surprises.



UNDERSTAND FREIGHT CLASSIFICATION



Commodity classification or “class” is one of the main factors that impacts the cost of your shipment. By accurately classifying your shipment, you can ensure you get the most accurate freight quote while avoiding costly delays and reclassification fees.

Shippers and carriers rely on the National Motor Freight Classification (NMFC) system to determine which of the 18 possible freight classes their shipments fall under. Classes are assigned for almost anything — from raw materials to finished products — and are assigned a number that ranges from 50 (the least expensive) to 500 (the most expensive) based on four main factors:

- 1 DENSITY
- 2 STOWABILITY
- 3 HANDLING
- 4 LIABILITY/VALUE

Once you know the correct NMFC code and class of your shipment, you can complete your quote request and fill out the bill of lading with confidence. Taking just a few extra moments to complete this information can make a world of difference for both your quote’s accuracy and your bottom line.

? QUESTIONS?

Download Unishippers’ **Understanding Freight Classification** tip sheet or watch our video, **How to Class Freight in Four Minutes**, to learn more.

USE CORRECT MEASUREMENTS



By correctly stating the dimensions of your shipment when requesting a quote, you can determine the proper classification and service type for your shipment and avoid costly reclassification fees.

When requesting a quote, inaccurately estimating your shipment’s dimensions can be costly — especially for oversized items, which may be subject to additional charges. To determine the accurate dimensions of your freight, make sure to always measure the full length and width of the pallet, as well as the shipment’s height from the floor.

Keep in mind that less-than-truckload shipments typically consist of five or fewer standard, stackable pallet spaces and weigh less than 5,000 pounds. If your shipment contains large pallets or oversized items, we recommend getting a volume spot quote to ensure you’re getting the best deal and avoiding costly additional charges.



ANTICIPATE ADDITIONAL FEES

You've learned many of the variables that affect your freight shipping rate, such as a shipment's class and size. But did you know that your shipment is also subject to accessorial fees?

Accessorials are additional charges for services that are not included in standard shipping rates. By understanding common accessorial charges, you can get the most accurate freight quote and plan ahead for any additional shipping expenses.

Some of the most common accessorial charges include:

REDELIVERY

If the carrier attempts to make a delivery but is turned away by the receiver, a redelivery charge will be incurred. This charge is also applied if no one is available to accept a delivery or if the delivery address is changed to a new location. Avoid this charge by confirming delivery details on your bill of lading with your shipment receiver.

APPOINTMENT, NOTIFY OR CHECK CALL

This charge is added when the carrier needs to contact the recipient to set up an appointment. Confirm that your consignee needs a delivery appointment and make sure to note this on your bill of lading to avoid this charge on your final invoice.

LIFTGATE DELIVERY

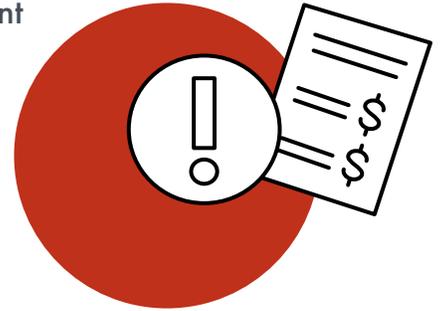
If your consignee does not have a dock, they will need a liftgate to load or unload your shipment. Make sure your receiver communicates accurate information about their dock situation and requirements. Schedule a liftgate pickup or delivery when necessary to avoid delivery delays and additional charges.

INSIDE PICKUP OR DELIVERY

If your freight needs to be picked up or delivered inside a commercial location rather than a receiving area, there will be an additional charge. Make sure to indicate on your bill of lading whether your freight needs an inside pickup or delivery for the most accurate freight quote. Avoid this fee by specifying where in the building or on what side of the building your shipment should be received.

VEHICLE NOT USED

If your shipment is not ready when the driver arrives for a scheduled pickup, you will be charged a fee. Avoid this charge by canceling or rescheduling pickups before the driver is dispatched.



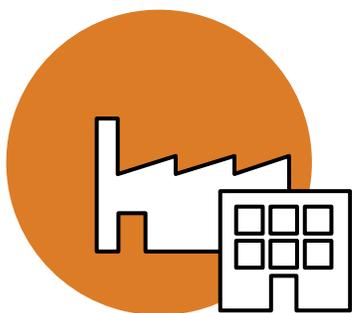
CAN'T REMEMBER WHICH SITUATIONS NECESSITATE EXTRA FEES?

Download our helpful tip sheet, [Understanding Freight Shipping Fees](#), and reference it when quoting your next freight shipment.

CONSIDER PICKUP & DELIVERY LOCATIONS

Freight pickups and deliveries to non-commercial areas or locations that have limited or secured access often require an additional fee.

While each carrier has slightly different guidelines, the following locations are considered limited access or non-commercial by most carriers and will incur additional fees:



- Camps, carnivals, fairs and amusement parks
- Cemeteries
- Churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and convents
- Construction sites
- Courthouses
- Daycares
- Golf courses and country clubs
- Hotels, motels and retirement homes
- Schools, colleges and universities without a dock
- Medical and urgent-care sites without a dock
- Military bases and installations
- Mines, quarries and oil fields
- Mini storage units
- Nuclear power plants
- Parks, farms, ranches and Indian reservations
- Prisons
- Restaurants

When preparing your shipment, make sure to indicate if the address is in a restricted area to get the most accurate freight quote. Unsure if your location is subject to limited access fees? A 3PL can help determine if your pickup or delivery location will incur additional charges, and can help you select the right service type for your freight.

SHIP SMART WITH UNISHIPPERS

If you ship freight, you've come to the right place.

Unishippers' dedicated team of shipping experts can help you successfully navigate all things freight — starting with getting the most accurate quotes for your business shipping. Contact Unishippers today to get started.

[UNISHIPPERS.COM](https://www.unishippers.com)