

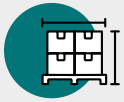
Demystifying Density-Based Freight Class

Freight classification, while important, can easily become confusing — especially if you're dealing with a density-based freight class! That's why Unishippers outlined everything you need to know about classifying density-based shipments, to ensure you get the most accurate freight quote right from the start.



BACK TO THE BASICS

Before you learn how to classify your shipment, let's make sure you understand these important terms:



Freight class

Freight classification or "class" helps streamline shipping costs across the industry by categorizing shipments into one of 18 standard or 11 density-based freight classes based on your freight's density, stowability, handling and liability. These range from class 50 (the least expensive) to class 500 (the 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).



NMFC code

While freight class represents a limited number of commodity categories, each class also has a number of corresponding National Motor Freight Classification (NMFC) codes, which relate to specific commodities within each category. For example, while two different food items will both have a freight class of 70, they may have unique NMFC codes based on their weight, density, etc.



Shipment density

When classifying your freight, density refers to how heavy the shipment is relative to its size. Typically, the lower the density, the higher your shipping rate will be.



Density-based freight class

Commodity groups that have a wide range of possible densities — such as car parts or crated machinery — are assigned a density-based freight class. If you ship items that vary in size, or if the number of items varies from shipment to shipment, your freight will likely be assigned a density-based classification.

DETERMINING DENSITY-BASED FREIGHT CLASS

Now that you understand the basic terminology, it's time to walk through the classification process! Follow these steps to make sure you accurately classify your freight:

1 Find the correct NMFC code

First, you must determine if your shipment falls under a density-based freight class. To do this, you'll need to identify the NMFC code that corresponds to your commodity — this will tell you if the commodity is classed based on density.

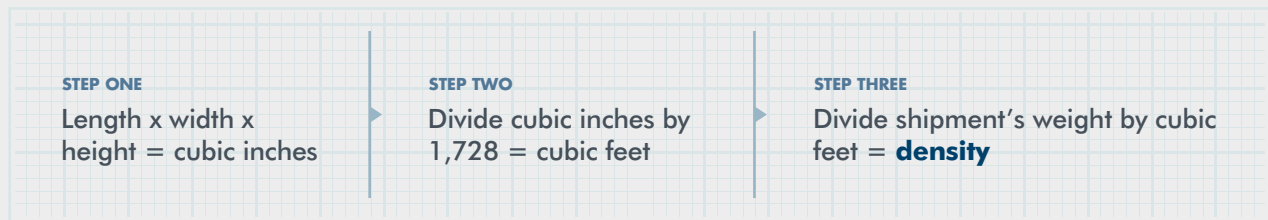
You can find the codes for your shipment on the [National Motor Freight Association](#) (NMFTA) website or by contacting your local Unishippers office.

2 Accurately weigh and measure your shipment

Once you know your shipment has a density-based freight class, it's time to determine its weight and measurements. Even small mistakes can result in incorrect classing — which can cause delays and reclassification fees — so make sure to be precise and include any packaging (including the pallet) in your calculations.

3 Calculate density

Next, it's time to calculate your shipment's density. To do this, you can try a tool like Unishippers' handy [freight density calculator](#) or use the formula below:



4 Determine the freight class

Once you know your shipment's density, you can determine the appropriate freight class for your shipment. Then simply use this information when quoting and booking your shipment to ensure the most accurate freight quote possible!



Have questions about classifying your freight shipments? Unishippers can help! Contact us today to get started.

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