

GUIDE TO COMPARING

# FREIGHT SERVICE TYPES

When considering freight services for your shipment, be sure you are getting the right service for your needs by learning what restrictions or special requirements may apply.



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# DIFFERENT TYPES OF FREIGHT SHIPMENTS REQUIRE DIFFERENT KINDS OF SERVICES.

Depending on what your freight is, where it needs to go and how quickly it needs to get there, different freight services provide options to help you make it happen. When considering freight services for your shipment, be sure you are getting the right service for your needs and learn what restrictions or special requirements may apply.



**READ ON FOR OUR GUIDE TO COMPARING FREIGHT SERVICE TYPES**



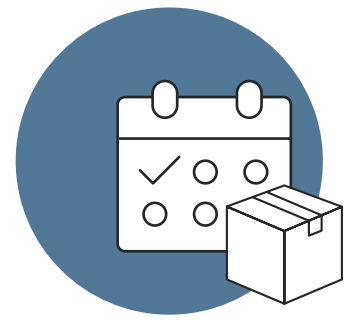
# STANDARD/WEEKEND GUARANTEE

Depending on the service level, a standard guarantee shipment is guaranteed to be delivered on the standard service day by 9 a.m., 10 a.m., noon, 5 p.m. or within a one-hour window with a money-back guarantee. Many carriers offer 24/7 access to guaranteed shipment specialists to contact with any questions.

A few carriers also offer a weekend guarantee service. If a shipment is picked up by Thursday or Friday, it is guaranteed to transit over the weekend and be delivered by Monday. This is a great alternative to air freight service for shipments moving over the weekend. Check with your preferred carrier to see if they offer a weekend guarantee.

## ? WHEN SHOULD I USE THIS SERVICE?

Standard guarantee or weekend guarantee is a good option for shippers who cannot afford for their freight to be delayed.



## ! SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS & RESTRICTIONS

For many carriers, the standard or weekend guarantee does not apply for:

- Holidays and weekends
- Force majeure
- Volume shipments
- Missing information on bill of lading (BOL)
- COD shipments
- Delivery by appointment
- Blackout periods
- Extreme length shipments
- Certain commodities
- Delivery that requires liftgate services
- Residential delivery
- Delivery to certain locations

Contact your preferred carrier to determine what exclusions may apply.

# DAY- OR TIME-SPECIFIC CRITICAL GUARANTEE & EXPEDITED

A day- or time-specific critical guarantee shipment ensures delivery on a specific day/time or on a nonstandard service day. Some carriers also offer expedited service for delivery on holidays and weekends, which can make day- or time-specific critical guarantee a great alternative to air freight service for shipments moving over the weekend.

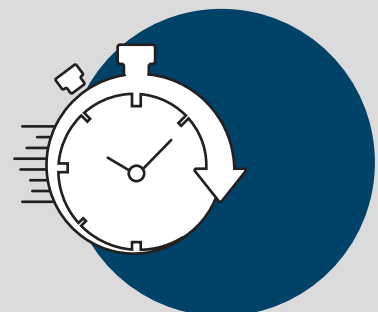
Delivery by appointment — a service in which a carrier will deliver within a specific window of time — is also available through most carriers.

## ? WHEN SHOULD I USE THIS SERVICE?

Day- or time-specific critical guarantee/expedited is the right fit for shippers who have freight that must be delivered on a specific date, within a short window of time or outside of the standard transit day timeframe.

## ! SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS & RESTRICTIONS

- Be sure to include the quote number on all BOLs
- Shipments must be picked up by a certain time
- This service does not apply under certain circumstances such as holidays, appointment-only delivery, etc.





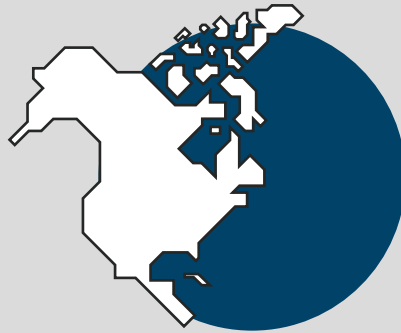
# CROSS-BORDER FREIGHT

Cross-border freight shipping from the U.S. into Canada or Mexico can be an affordable alternative to conventional ground or air freight. Cross-border freight services typically offer faster transit times than traditional LTL shipping, at rates that are generally lower than air freight.

Cross-border freight typically includes tracking tools that help speed up delivery time and customs clearance while maintaining compliance with trade regulations. Many carriers are also CTPAT/FAST certified and ACE approved with PARS expertise, which allows for expedited processing for commercial shipments.

## ? WHEN SHOULD I USE THIS SERVICE?

Cross-border shipping is ideal for businesses that send a high quantity of shipments from the U.S. to Mexico or Canada.



## ! SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS & RESTRICTIONS

- Canada: BOL and invoice (commercial or Canada Customs) required
- Mexico: BOL, commercial invoice and NAFTA certificate of origin required

# AIR FREIGHT

Air freight allows you to ship quickly and reliably to virtually anywhere, domestic or internationally. This can be particularly advantageous for small and mid-sized companies, as it helps international trade shipments move in a more expeditious and effective manner.

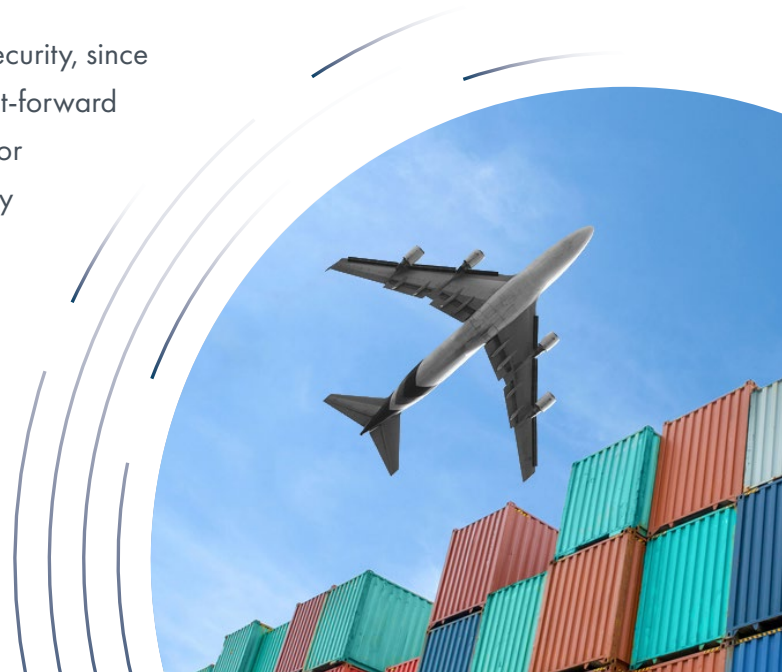
Shipping by air also offers the advantage of a high level of security, since airport controls over cargo are tightly managed. Many freight-forward carriers offer door-to-door service to major cities worldwide or standard door-to-airport or door-to-port service to almost any international destination.

## ? WHEN SHOULD I USE THIS SERVICE?

Air freight is a good option for businesses with high-value or time-sensitive domestic or international shipments and for heavy freight shipments that require reduced travel time, reliable service or high-end protection for delicate or valuable goods.

## ! SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS & RESTRICTIONS

- A commercial invoice is required for Puerto Rico shipments

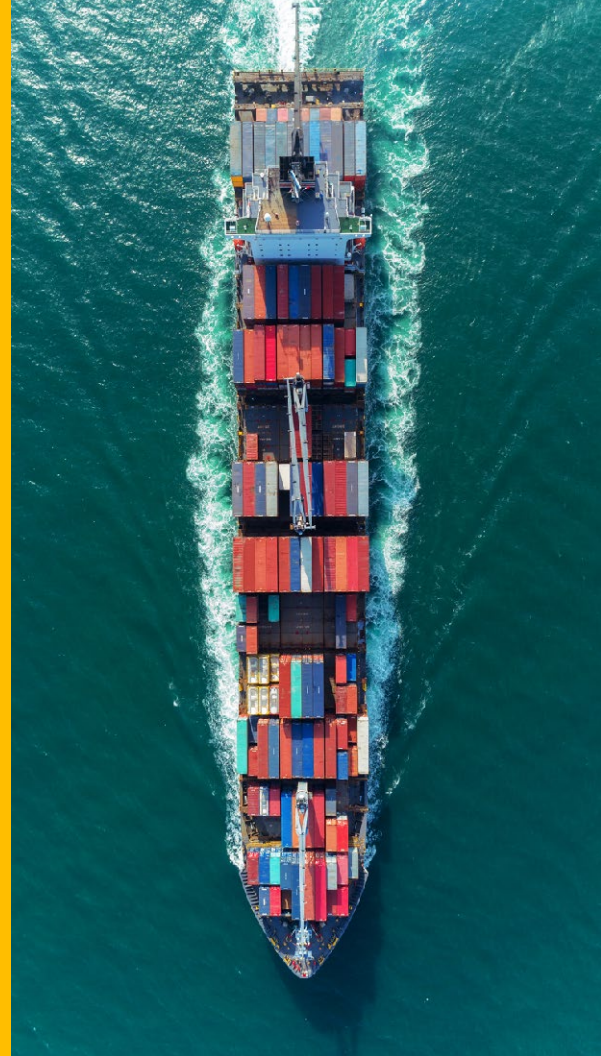


# OCEAN FREIGHT

Ocean freight refers to the logistics of exporting and importing cargo by shipping lines. Ocean freight is an affordable transportation solution for your less time-sensitive freight. Ocean freight can be shipped by Less Than Container Load (LCL) for partial freight shipments, Full Container Load (FCL) for heavy or oversized shipments or Break-Bulk for oversized cargo that needs to be loaded individually. The itinerary can be strictly port-to-port or can include truck pick-up and/or delivery for door-to-port, port-to-door and door-to-door service.

## ? WHEN SHOULD I USE THIS SERVICE?

Ocean freight is an affordable choice for international and domestic freight shipments outside of the continental U.S. that are not time-sensitive and are restricted from air shipping due to size and weight.

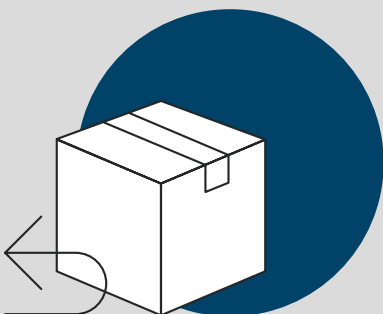


# REVERSE LOGISTICS

Reverse logistics is the process of moving goods from their final destination back to the original shipper or elsewhere. It involves a carrier picking up, packaging, shipping and often re-delivering goods back to their original location. In the case of reverse logistics, the resource moves at least one step back in the supply chain — for instance, when goods move from the customer to the distributor or manufacturer.

## ? WHEN SHOULD I USE THIS SERVICE?

Reverse logistics services are beneficial for customers who have seasonal returns, merchandise change-outs, stock adjustments, product recycling, disposal of spoiled or damaged products, recall events or returnable container tracking. Only a handful of carriers offer this service, so be sure to check with your preferred carrier on availability.



# SEALED DIVIDER SERVICE

Sealed divider service allows a shipment to be first on the truck and sealed with a wall to ensure the shipment remains intact and secure in the same trailer from pick-up to delivery. Sealed trailers are designed to protect cargo in transit, providing maximum protection and security to reduce damage and loss.

## WHEN SHOULD I USE THIS SERVICE?

Sealed divider is an ideal solution for shipments that could be easily damaged from handling, including new and high-value products and products that are prone to theft.

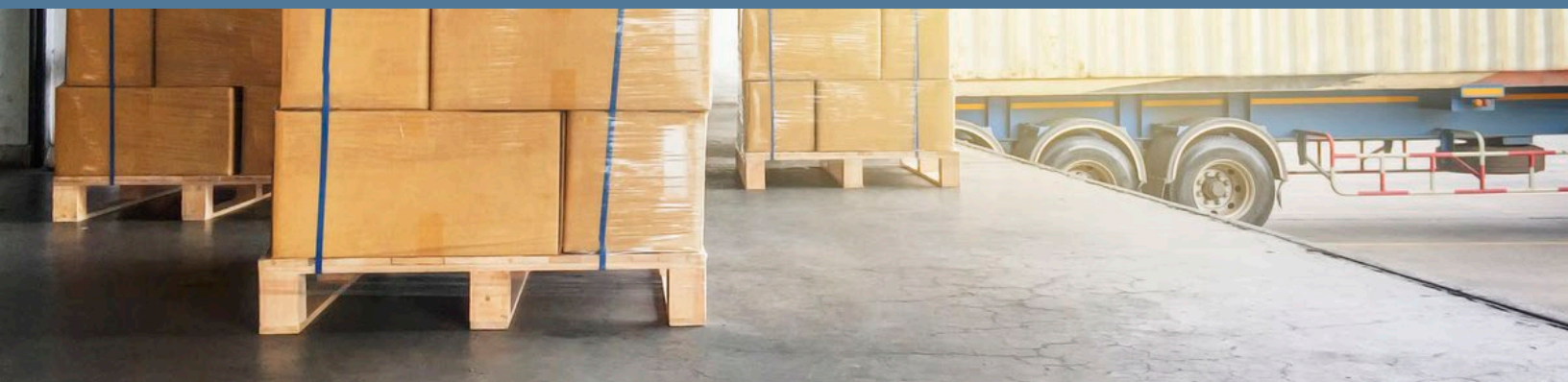


# TRADESHOW SERVICE

Tradeshow service is used to handle all the details of your tradeshow shipping needs from start to finish. Any shipment traveling to or from a tradeshow, convention or exhibition requires special consideration and handling. Tradeshow shipments generally need to be delivered on a certain date and within a time window arranged by the tradeshow event manager and then picked up quickly following the tradeshow to avoid additional fees.

## WHEN SHOULD I USE THIS SERVICE?

Tradeshow service is a great option for customers who need a reliable and cost-effective transportation solution for their tradeshow shipments and when tradeshow shipping is required.



# RETAIL SHIPPING

Many carriers offer retail shipping to stores and warehouse distribution centers. This service allows a carrier to work around the receiver's schedule to ensure delivery of the freight. For shipments destined to select big-box retailers, shippers may be able to specify the beginning and end date of the purchase-order delivery window at no additional fee.

## ? WHEN SHOULD I USE THIS SERVICE?

Retail shipping services are available to businesses that manufacture and/or distribute products to retail stores and warehouse distribution centers.



# HAZMAT SHIPPING

A shipment requires hazmat shipping service if it contains a hazardous material, which is defined as any substance or material that could adversely affect the safety of the public, handlers or carriers during transportation.

There are nine classes of hazardous materials:

- Explosives
- Compressed gases
- Flammable liquids
- Flammable solids
- Oxidizers and organic peroxides
- Toxic materials
- Radioactive material
- Corrosive material
- Miscellaneous

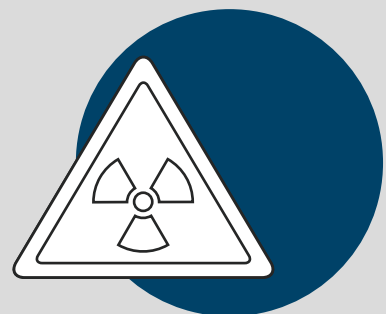
The US Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a final rule on security requirements for transporters of hazardous materials, stating that all hazardous materials shippers must meet the DOT's hazardous materials regulations. Hazmat transportation is somewhat technical, with dozens of regulations, sub-regulations and exceptions to the rules.

## ? WHEN SHOULD I USE THIS SERVICE?

Hazmat shipping procedures are necessary if the materials you are shipping fall into one of the nine hazardous material classes.

## ! SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS & RESTRICTIONS

- The preparer of hazardous material shipping papers must provide detailed information on the BOL that indicates materials being shipped are hazardous, describes the materials and describes the shipping weight and method
- All employees handling, loading, unloading, transporting or completing paperwork for hazmat shipments must be hazmat-certified and re-certified every three years







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for a free shipping quote and find out how Unishippers can help you save time, trouble and money.

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