

# Adding to Your Toolkit:

## Using LTL Freight for Shipping Packages and Large Items

Sure, parcel shipping may be your go-to. It may be all you've needed for your business. But did you know, in certain situations shifting from **parcel** to less-than-truckload (LTL) freight can save you time and money?

You don't have to be an avid LTL freight shipper to use the service. You don't even have to be an expert. (That's what we're here for.) But knowing how to use LTL and having that flexibility at hand can make smart business sense.

# See the Differences Between Parcel and LTL Freight Shipping

If you've only shipped with parcel services, **shipping LTL freight** might seem overwhelming. But it's really not. This e-guide will go through the different requirements and terminology and explain how LTL pricing works. By the end, you should feel more comfortable about LTL and ready to give it a try. And if you still have questions, we're right here for you. Let's start by comparing parcel to LTL.



Shipments can **weigh** up to 150 lbs. and measure up to 165 inches in length and girth, combined. They must be 108 inches or less in length.



Shipments **weigh** more than 150 lbs. but less than 15,000 lbs., fit on no more than 10 pallets and are no longer than 12 linear feet.

Packages are typically shipped **individually**.



**Multiple packages** going to the same destination can be put into a large crate or shipping container or bundled on pallet and secured by plastic wrap.

Shipping **costs** are based on package weight and size, travel distance, zone and service speed. Dimensional weight may be a factor for certain shipments.



Shipping **costs** are based on classification codes, shipment weight or density, travel distance, mode of transportation, special handling charges and accessorials fees.

Shipping labels **identify**:

- » Shipper's name, address and contact details
- » Recipient's name, address and contact details
- » Contents of the shipment, package quantity and weight
- » Tracking number and barcode
- » Payment method
- » Reference numbers
- » Service method



Bills of lading **identify**:

- » Shipper's name, address and contact details
- » Recipient's name, address and contact details
- » Shipment contents, quantity and weight
- » NMFC freight class
- » Packaging type
- » Service method
- » Shipping and delivery instructions for the carrier
- » Special handling instructions



# Interpret LTL Freight Shipping Terms

When you start shipping LTL, you'll soon learn a whole other vocabulary. Here are some important words and terms to get you started:

- » Accessorial fees and surcharges
- » Bill of lading (BOL)
- » Dwell time
- » National Motor Freight Classification (NMFC)
- » Transportation management system (TMS)

## Still feeling tongue-tied?

Our list of [freight shipping definitions](#) may help. Or contact one of our Worldwide Express experts to help you translate.

## Benefit From LTL Freight Shipping

Here are some reasons to shift from parcel to LTL:

**Scenario 1** Business is going well. Really well. But shipping costs for all the packages is quickly adding up. Instead of paying for each individual shipment, you can save money by consolidating them for shipping via LTL freight to a **micro-warehouse** where they can be separated for last-mile delivery.

**Scenario 2** Your e-commerce business landed a vendor contract with a big box retailer (congrats!). Now, in addition to one-off sales to individual consumers, you'll be **shipping items in bulk to retailer's distribution center**.

**Scenario 3** Some of your **shipments are of large or irregularly shaped items**. Parcel carriers levy handling fees and surcharges for the extra space they occupy, while others won't accept items that exceed their maximum limits.

## Get to Know LTL Accessorial Fees and Surcharges

LTL carriers can assess additional charges on some shipments. Like parcel shipping, the extra amount helps cover the cost of fluctuating fuel prices or the expense of a slow or difficult delivery. Use this [list of common accessorial fees](#) to know what to expect and how you might minimize them.



# Use Details From Your Shipping Invoice

All freight carriers invoice differently. The benefit of working with Worldwide Express is you'll receive one shipping invoice whether you work with one carrier or many. **The invoice shows detailed information about each of your shipments**, including any surcharges or fees assessed. A quick analysis of your invoice may point to where you can improve your process — and it can help with **budget planning**.



# Find Top-Notch LTL Freight Carriers

Forging your own carrier relationships can be time-consuming. We've done the hard work for you. We give you access to more than **75+ LTL freight carriers** across the nation. We vet each one to ensure they're high-quality, dependable carriers with a wide range of services. And — you'll love this — we negotiated discount rates to make sure you're getting the best value for your budget.

# Streamline Your Shipping Tasks

**SpeedShip**<sup>®</sup>, our proprietary TMS, simplifies your tasks for parcel and LTL shipping in one convenient place, helping when you need to:



Create a bill of lading



Compare quotes from multiple carriers



Customize reports for shipping analysis



Set up email notifications to communicate your shipment's status



Add insurance when scheduling shipments

# Get Tips on How to Pack and Ship LTL

Packing freight is generally the same as packing parcel — it's just bigger. Your items or individual packages will go inside a container or get strapped onto a sturdy pallet. Avoid stacks and pallets that might tumble or not fit easily into a freight truck.

Our **freight packaging guide** goes into packing and labeling instructions, from start to finish. You may want to pin up the guide and refer to it whenever you ship LTL.



# Understand Pricing for LTL Shipping

Now, what you've been waiting for — the cost of shipping LTL. Carriers determine the cost of an LTL freight shipment on several factors:

- » Distance from origin to destination
- » Shipment weight and size
- » Mode of transportation
- » Special shipping considerations
- » Delivery speed
- » Freight class
- » Negotiated or discount rates



## Learn About NMFC Codes

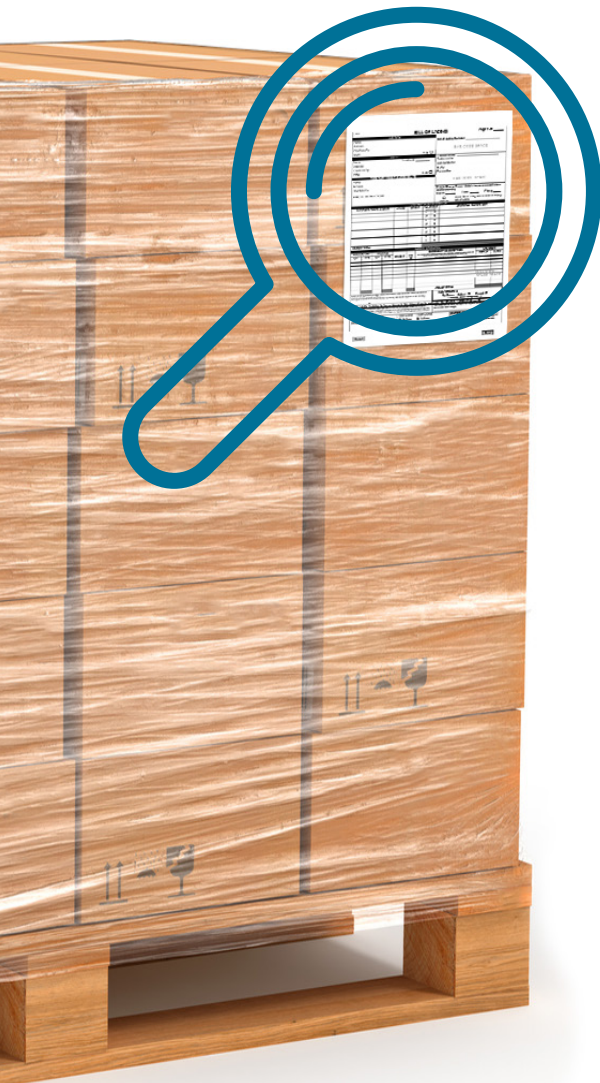
Every commodity being shipped via LTL services has a **National Motor Freight Classification (NMFC) code**. Codes are broken into one of 18 categories based on the commodity's transportability (how easy it is to ship the item). The lower the class, the lower the pricing. The higher the class, the more the item costs to ship. NMFC codes consider the item's:

- » Density
- » Ease of handling
- » Stowability
- » Value
- » Liability of theft
- » Potential for damage

Don't worry, you don't have to figure this out on your own. Enter info about the commodity into our **density calculator**. Once you know the correct density of your freight, you can use that to identify the correct NMFC code. It's that easy.

## Complete Bills of Lading With Confidence

If a correct NMFC is most important to LTL shipping, the next most important is the shipment's bill of lading (BOL). There are repercussions if the **BOL is incorrect, incomplete or missing**. For starters, your shipment will be denied or delayed. Don't risk it. Use this resource for **instructions on how to complete a BOL**.



## Rely on a 3PL Leader for Expert Advice and Guidance

Now you know the basics of shipping LTL. If all this sounds intimidating, you can relax. Shipping LTL freight is different from parcel shipping, but you can count on Worldwide Express to walk you through the process.

Our experience as a third-party logistics provider in both parcel and freight shipping goes back three decades, so you can feel confident with us by your side. We'll let you know when it makes sense to ship your packages or large items using LTL services and when parcel shipping is the best route.



It's smart to keep LTL services in your back pocket for when you need them.

Reach out for a [custom shipping consultation](#) and let us help you get started with adding freight shipping to your toolkit.

[wwex.com](https://www.wwex.com)