



# Your Guide To Understanding NMFC Codes & Freight Class

These two terms are often used interchangeably. Learn the difference and why it's important.



Trying to understand the difference between National Motor Freight Classification (NMFC) codes and freight classes causes quite a bit of confusion in the **less-than-truckload (LTL) shipping** world. There are multiple nuances in both and, quite frankly, a lot of misinformation out there (not us!).

However, it's imperative that you correctly understand these two related shipping terms, otherwise you may be setting yourself up for unexpected charges and reclassifications as your shipment travels to its destination.

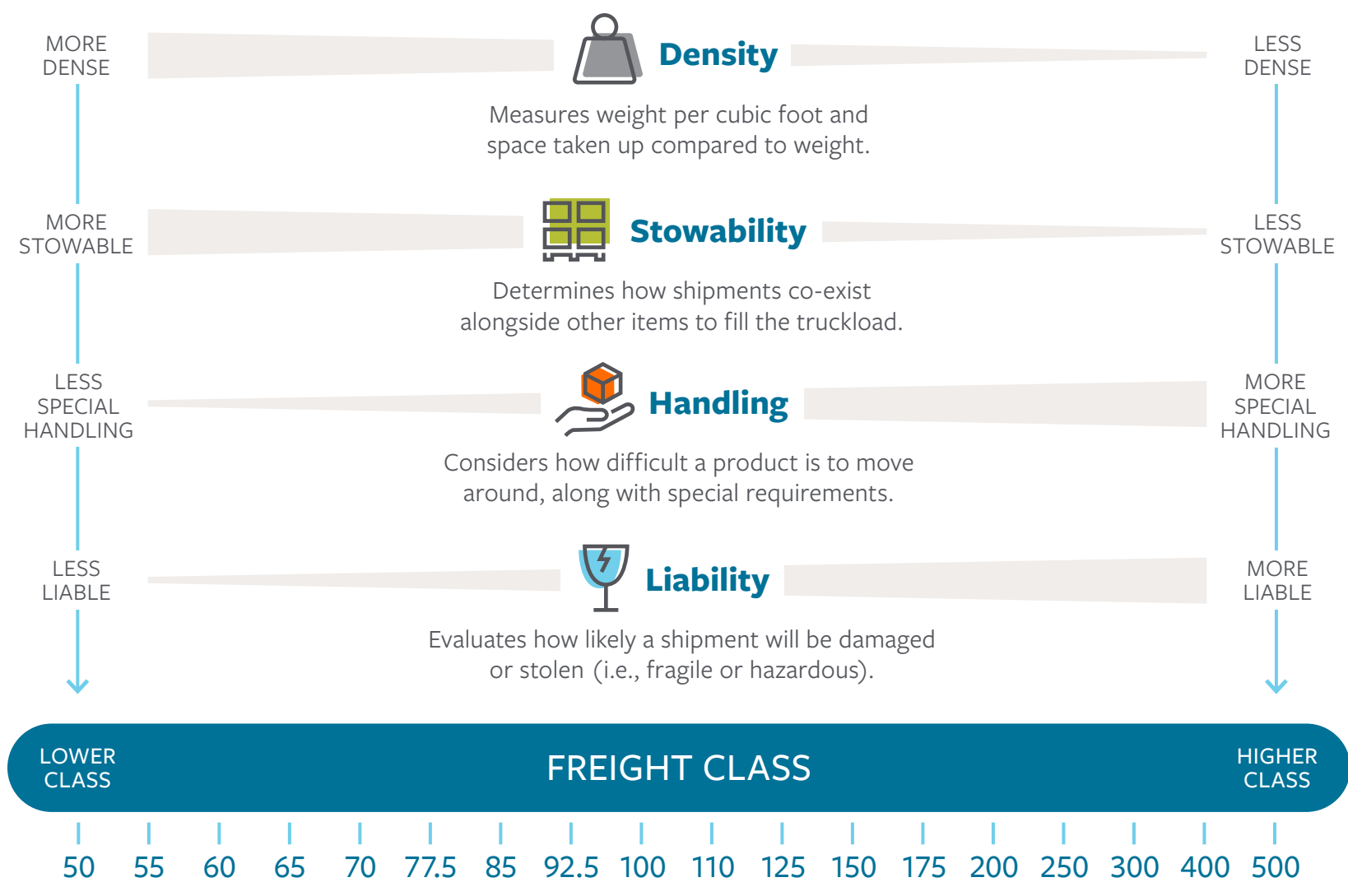
Worldwide Express is here to help. As a leading **third-party logistics (3PL) company** and LTL shipping partner, we provide information that helps customers ship smarter. Here, we outline the differences between freight class and NMFC codes and why each matter for your LTL shipments.

## Freight Class Key Facts

- Freight class is an industry-wide system used to categorize commodities.
- Classes are defined by the National Motor Freight Traffic Association (NMFTA).
- There are 18 distinct freight classes ranging from Class 50 to Class 500.
- Classes are based upon four characteristics: density, stowability, handling and liability.

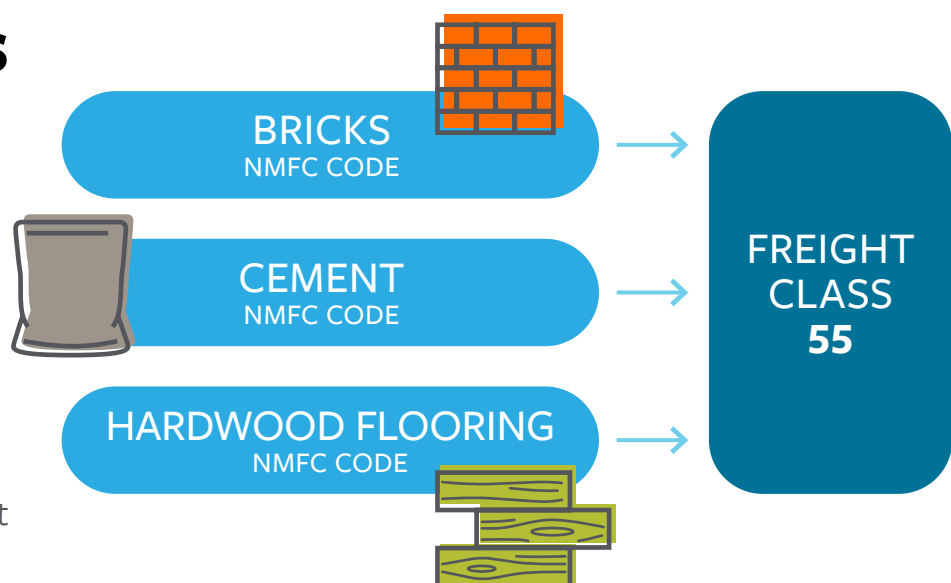


### What factors determine freight classification?



## NMFC Codes Key Facts

- National Motor Freight Classification (NMFC) codes identify very specific commodities.
- “Bricks,” “maple syrup” and every other LTL-shippable product has a unique NMFC code.
- Each of these codes corresponds with and are aligned to one of the 18 freight classifications.
- NMFC codes/commodities are assigned to a freight class based upon density and shipping difficulty.



### What do they mean together?

**FREIGHT CLASSES** represent **criteria** or a **standard** based upon four variables of shipping difficulty.

**NMFC CODES** represent **commodities** that are assigned a class depending on their shipability.

- When together on a bill of lading, the two allow shippers and carriers to evaluate pricing.
- Using both allows everyone to “speak the same language” when it comes to freight costs.

## How To Calculate NMFC Codes and Freight Class

- Entering the wrong information on your bill of lading can cost your company time and money.
- There are online tools that allow you to determine your correct classification.
- We recommend working with a leading 3PL partner to ensure accuracy and efficiency.
- Worldwide Express provides **SpeedShip®**, a transportation management system that easily determines class.



### We're here to help!

Do you have questions about NMFC codes, freight class and how they impact your freight shipping? [Connect with one of our experts to learn more.](#)

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