

Top 15 LTL Savings Tips

SIX THROUGH TEN

6.

Don't estimate shipment weight. Enter the correct weight for the freight, including the pallet weight. Rounding to broad numbers (like 1000) will guarantee the shipment will be re-weighed by the carrier.

- › If a shipper underestimates weight, costs may be higher than expected. The carrier can send the shipment through a Dimensioner to calculate the cubic volume.
- › If the weight is understated, the density will be lower. This could move the freight to a higher, more expensive, shipping class.

7.

List the correct NMFC Item Number on the BOL, including the proper sub. Include the actual class (not FAK class) and the correct NMFC description. Omitting this information will send the freight through a Dimensioner and/or a W&I Supervisor.

- › Understanding freight classes is critical. Incorrect classification may be costly.
- › Triple-check the bill of lading before signing, as it is a legal document.

8.

Single bill pickups are costly for carriers. If possible, arrange for a pickup with two or more shipments. This will eliminate Single Shipment charges.

- › Ship more product less often. Shipping six pallets is more cost effective than sending two pallets every two days.
- › Shipping on off-peak days can yield measurable savings. This is an option for shippers of non-consumer type products.
- › When scheduling pickups, indicate the number of pallets to be picked up. If more orders are received during the day, inform the carrier so they send a trailer that can accommodate your freight.
- › Ship early to avoid holiday crunches. Avoid delays and expedited costs by shipping at least a week early. Carriers slow down as employees take time off work for the holidays. Don't wait to send your shipments.

9.

Be sure freight is prepared before scheduling the pickup. This minimizes waiting and loading time and allows the driver to keep moving. Time lost when freight is not ready is money wasted.

- › Develop a reputation for loading quickly. This will affect the price and encourage a good working relationship between the carrier and shipper.

10.

Look for carriers based near your ship-to points. Your load will more likely become a backhaul with a lower rate. Factor distance into your shipping decisions.

- › Cross-docking velocity: Is there a need to forward store products to closer locations to your customers to support same day/next day buyers?

