





NMFC Classification Changes July 19th, 2025

Starting July 19, 2025, the National Motor Freight Classification (NMFC) system will shift to a more density-based model. For many products, the current commodity-based classification framework will phase out. Shippers should prepare for significantly increased auditing, potentially up to 100%, as carriers ensure compliance with the new rules.

Shippers with low-density products are at the greatest risk, particularly if their current NMFC classifications haven't been reviewed by the National Motor Freight Traffic Association (NMFTA) in recent years.

With the heightened scrutiny, any misclassification or inaccuracies in declared weight or dimensions are likely to be flagged. Even a small number of reclassifications—as few as two pallets per week—can lead to enough additional fees to justify investing in an automatic dimensioning system.

Weekly Calculations

\$125 Average Fee 2 pallets reclassified per week	
\$250 fees per week	

Why Invest in a Dimensioner Now?

The cost of a dimensioner spread over five years is often less than the reclassification fees you're already paying—even for small-volume shippers. Rice Lake Weighing Systems offers financing through a trusted third-party leasing partner who can arrange approval in under an hour. For well-qualified buyers, no deposit is required. At the end of the lease, the equipment is yours with a \$1.00 buyout.

Example Pricing

iDimension® Flex:	\$30,000.00
Installation, Freight and Setup:	\$5,000.00
Total Estimated Investment:	\$35,000.00
Estimated Monthly Lease Payment:	\$715.00
End-of-term Buyout:	\$1.00

Real-world Impact: You're Not Alone

Consider the example of a copier distributor. Older copiers contained high amounts of steel, resulting in a heavier product and lower freight class. Today's copiers, built with lightweight plastics, have significantly lower density, likely triggering reclassification if you continue to use the old class number.

Advancements in materials and packaging across industries mean many products are now lower in density. This shift will directly impact NMFC classifications under the new rules.

What Should Shippers Do Now?

- Review your current NMFC classifications
- Talk with your carriers and third-party logistics providers about the changes
- Prepare to provide accurate weight and dimension data—your best defense under the new rules

Rice Lake's iDimension Flex and full array of forklift and floor scales gives you the tools to confidently navigate the changes and avoid costly surprises. Contact us today to learn more or to request a quote.