

# Making **big** easy.

## An Overview of Shipping Machinery and Oversized Loads with BNSF

### 1. MEASURE IT

(At least 8 weeks before shipment)

Determine if your shipment is an oversized load according to BNSF by using the following criteria:

11'

17' ATR  
(Above Top of Rail)

Height more than 17' above top of rail  
Width more than 11' at any point

Load extends beyond end sills of car

**Oversize Weights:**  
286,000 lbs. on a 4 axle car  
480,000 lbs. on an 8 axle car

12-axle or greater cars may require clearance, as they typically need empty buffer cars for weight distribution.

NOTE: The above specifications apply to BNSF only; other rail carriers may have different definitions of oversized loads.

### 2. PRICE IT

(At least 8 weeks before shipment)

Get a quick pricing quote by logging in to [BNSF.com](https://www.bnsf.com) and using our pricing tool – Carload Shipping Advisor.

NOTE: Rates are subject to change based on the clearance route. Please confirm validity of the quoted rate once the route has been approved and be sure to read the shipping conditions to obtain the appropriate price. If you do not have access to MyBNSF, click the Register link at [BNSF.com](https://www.bnsf.com).

### 3. CLEAR IT

(At least 8 weeks before shipment)

For shipments that are oversized, your clearance request lets us officially initiate the process to confirm that our infrastructure can handle your load. To submit your clearance request, log in to [BNSF.com](https://www.bnsf.com), go to the PLAN tab, and select Oversized Clearance Request.

We evaluate primary and secondary routes and let you know your best shipping option. You'll also receive a proposal number that you'll need through the rest of the process. Each request includes a \$1,000 fee, which is refundable on all proposals that become actual loads on BNSF, within one year.

NOTE: Clearance requests must be submitted to the originating rail carrier.

To submit your clearance request, you will need to establish your loading and unloading sites, then log in to [BNSF.com](https://www.bnsf.com).

## 4. REQUEST CARS

(2-4 weeks before shipment)

The next step is to request the railcars you'll need. Log in to BNSF.com and select the PLAN tab. To request a heavy-duty railcar, select Oversized Equipment Request Form. You'll need your proposal number and the railcar series or equipment car initial and number. To request a standard machinery flatcar, select the Railcar Equipment Request Form.

NOTE: Availability of railcars is subject to current supply conditions, so please allow 2-4 weeks for delivery.

## 5. LOAD IT

(2 days before shipment)

Next, you'll need to load and secure your railcar according to the Association of American Railroads (AAR) Open Top Loading Rules. Contained within the AAR rules are specific diagrams for loading configurations, as well as the general rules that you must follow. To obtain a copy of the AAR Open Top Loading Rules Manual, call 800-544-RAIL or email [pubs@ttci.aar.com](mailto:pubs@ttci.aar.com).

NOTE: It is the shipper's responsibility to correctly load and secure the load.

## 6. SUBMIT INSTRUCTIONS

(2 days before shipment)

Proper shipping instructions are essential for BNSF to provide the correct transportation services and invoice at the appropriate rate. To submit your shipping instructions, log in to BNSF.com and select the SHIP tab. You'll need the appropriate rate authority. For oversized loads, you'll also need your proposal number, and you'll need to select a special handling condition of "Extreme Dimension."

NOTE: You can also submit shipping instructions via EDI, through voice activation by calling 1-888-428-2673, or through the rail industry website [www.steelroads.com](http://www.steelroads.com).

## 7. GET INSPECTED

(2 days before shipment)

All loaded oversized shipments must be approved before the shipment can receive final clearance and be moved. For shipments with an eight or more axle railcar, contact BNSF Logistics via email at [inspections@bnsflogistics.com](mailto:inspections@bnsflogistics.com); for shipments with less than an eight-axle railcar, contact a BNSF mechanical foreman by going to [BNSF.com/ship-with-bnsf/ways-of-shipping/machinery-and-oversized/foreman.html](http://BNSF.com/ship-with-bnsf/ways-of-shipping/machinery-and-oversized/foreman.html).

NOTE: You should contact BNSF one week before loading and securing your shipment to schedule your inspection and ensure AAR and BNSF compliance.

## 8. SHIP IT!

**That's about the size of it.** For more information, visit [BNSF.com/oversized](http://BNSF.com/oversized).

### Contacts

#### Customer Support/Clearance Requests

888-428-2673  
[high.wide@bnsf.com](mailto:high.wide@bnsf.com)  
(8 am – 5 pm M-F)

After Hours and Weekends:  
[CSESDesk@bnsf.com](mailto:CSESDesk@bnsf.com)

*eBusiness* (Web Tools Assistance)  
888-428-2673  
[eBizHelp@bnsf.com](mailto:eBizHelp@bnsf.com)

**Equipment**  
888-428-2673

#### Rate Requests

*Aviation:*  
Jiyi Chen  
817-867-6162  
[jiyi.chen@bnsf.com](mailto:jiyi.chen@bnsf.com)

*Military/Government:*  
Grace Kung  
817-867-6539  
[grace.kung@bnsf.com](mailto:grace.kung@bnsf.com)

*Generators/Transformers/Boilers:*  
Jocelyn Morris  
817-867-0768  
[jocelyn.morris@bnsf.com](mailto:jocelyn.morris@bnsf.com)

*Machinery/Wind Energy:*  
Levi Gracy  
817-867-6838  
[levi.gracy@bnsf.com](mailto:levi.gracy@bnsf.com)

#### Tie-Down & Securement

Scott VanGosen  
913-551-4614  
[scott.vangosen@bnsf.com](mailto:scott.vangosen@bnsf.com)

#### AAR Open Top Loading Manual

800-544-RAIL  
[www.aar.com/standards/OpenTop-manual.html](http://www.aar.com/standards/OpenTop-manual.html)

**Way Billing**  
888-428-2673



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