

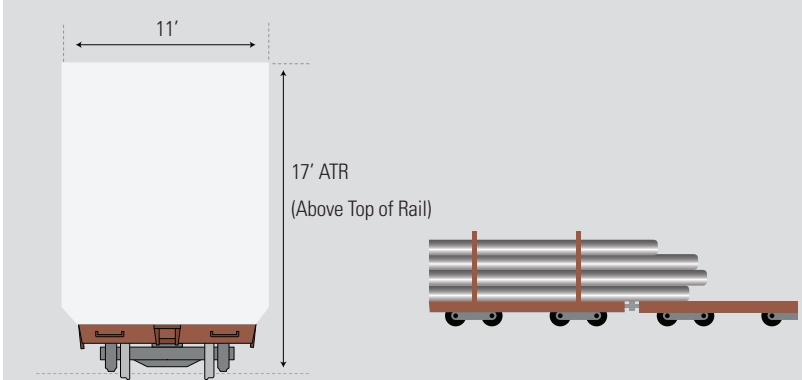
Making **big** easy.

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:



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: These 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 into the BNSF Customer Portal on [BNSF.com](https://www.bnsf.com) and using our pricing tool – **Get A Freight Rate**.

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 the BNSF Customer Portal, click the customer registration 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 into [BNSF.com](https://www.bnsf.com), go to **All Web Tools**, select **Hi-wide Dimensional Clearance Request Form**.

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 \$2,000 fee, which is refundable on all proposals that become actual loads on BNSF within 18 months.

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. SECURE IT

(At least 4 weeks before shipment)

For oversized loads BNSF needs to review your securement plan in order to ensure that your cargo is safe across the BNSF network.

To submit your securement plan for review email opentoloads@bnsf.com

5. REQUEST CARS

(2-4 weeks before shipment)

The next step is to request the railcars you'll need. Log into [BNSF.com](https://www.bnsf.com) and go to **All Web Tools**. To request a heavy-duty railcar, select **Dimensional Equipment Approval Required 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.

6. LOAD IT

(2 days before shipment)

Next, you'll need to load and secure your railcar according to the approved securement plan you submitted and the [Association of American Railroads \(AAR\) Open Top Loading Rules](https://www.aar.org). 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.

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

7. GET INSPECTED

(2 days before shipment)

All loaded oversized shipments must be approved before the shipment can receive final clearance and be moved. To start this process email high.wide@bnsf.com (at least 5 business days in advance of your planned ship date) requesting an inspection and include the date of inspection needed, location, railcar(s), and an on-site contact. For shipments with eight or more axles also include inspections@bnsflogistics.com. Upon receipt of request and once personnel resources are scheduled a team member will respond back confirming or providing an alternate inspection date.

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

8. 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 into [BNSF.com](https://www.bnsf.com), go to **All Web Tools**, and select **Shipping Instructions**. 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.

9. SHIP IT!

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

Contacts

Customer Support/ Clearance Requests

888-428-2673
high.wide@bnsf.com

Web Tools Assistance

Please utilize the **Message Us** feature on the BNSF Customer Portal (must be registered/ logged in to access)

or contact
BNSF Customer Support
1-888-428-2673

Rate Requests

Military/Government:
Taylor Schuff
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*Aviation/Generators/
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Tie-Down & Securement

Scott VanGosen
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AAR Open Top Loading Manual

800-544-RAIL
<https://my.aar.org/otlr>