Princeton TMX

Freight Invoice Decoder

Add-on freight fees can be confusing—and, if left unchecked, can quickly push invoices beyond agreed rates. The chart below explains what triggers common fees and how to verify them.



	Fee name	What triggers the fee	What to check
1	Reclassification Fee	The carrier changing your freight class after inspection.	Compare your declared class, weight, and dimensions to the inspection record.
2	Detention Fee	A driver's wait time extending beyond free time at pickup or delivery.	Check arrival/departure times against the free-time allowances in your contract.
3	Demurrage/Per Diem	A container being held past free time at a terminal (demurrage) or off-terminal (per diem).	Verify gate and return dates and applicable free-time allowances.
4	Redelivery Fee	A failed first delivery attempt requiring a second attempt.	Verify why the first attempt failed and whose fault it was.
5	Layover Fee	A driver being held overnight or longer while waiting to load or unload.	Verify who caused the delay and review the carrier's documentation.
6	Limited Access Fee	Deliveries being sent to locations with restricted access.	Verify the location meets the carrier's limited access criteria.
7	Lumper Fee	A third party being enlisted to help unload your freight at the receiver.	Verify you have a receipt and that you authorized third-party unloading.
8	Reconsignment Fee	Changing the delivery address after shipment begins.	Check that the request came from you and note the reason for the change.
9	Return Fee	Returning undeliverable freight to its original shipping location.	Verify the reason for the return and who requested it.
10	Reweigh Fee	Weighing a shipment again to verify its declared weight.	Request the scale ticket and compare the verified weight with your declared weight.
11	Fuel Surcharge	Adjusting the freight charge when fuel prices change.	Verify the fuel index and calculation against your agreement and the ship week.
12	TONU Fee	A booked truck being dispatched with no load (TONU: Truck Order Not Used).	Check cancellation timing against your terms and the dispatch record.
13	Appointment Fee	Scheduling a specific delivery time.	Confirm that an appointment was requested and scheduled.
14	Pallet Exchange Fee	Failing to return the carrier's pallets.	Check the number of pallets charged and your pallet agreement.
15	Correction Fee	Correcting shipment details after the original paperwork is issued.	Verify the reason for the correction and who requested it.

Fee names and rules can vary by carrier. Refer to your contract for details and contact your carrier with any questions.

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How to Audit an Invoice

Verify that the charges you expected match the charges you're being billed for.



1 Compare the invoice to your rate agreement, tender, and applicable accessorial fee schedule line by line.

Confirm that billed rates and accessorial charges match your agreements. Flag anything that doesn't match.

2 Check flagged accessorial fees against the bill of lading, delivery receipt, and other shipment documentation.

Look for discrepancies in dates, times, locations, and other key details.

3 If necessary, request additional carrier documentation to help validate flagged charges.

This might include arrival/departure timestamps, inspection records, scale tickets, and receipts.

4 Log disputed charges by carrier for the next rate negotiation.

Keep a record of unexpected or unsubstantiated fees to identify trends and address them in future negotiations.

Automate your freight auditing

Rely on Princeton TMX to flag billing discrepancies before they become overpayments. Learn more.