

## TOURING EXHIBITION SHIPPING DEFINITIONS

### Common Carrier

This is generally the least expensive way to transport exhibitions. However, it is also the roughest and is used only for exhibitions that are not of high value and can be replaced. The exhibition crates are handled as “freight”: they are loaded and unloaded several times during transit with no climate control inside the trucks. The crates Exhibits USA builds for exhibitions that will travel in this way are sturdy enough to withstand rough handling. It is acceptable for common carrier exhibitions to travel by air when necessary.

### Van Line

Exhibits USA uses van line transportation (ground transportation by furniture-moving van line companies) for our custom-crated exhibitions that require more careful handling than a common carrier can provide, or for exhibitions with a large number of crates. The van line drivers are prepared to handle large crates, and the crates are handled less frequently than they would be by common carrier drivers.

Some of the nationwide van line carriers have a special products division for art and electronic equipment. The drivers given those jobs are more experienced than furniture van drivers, and only artwork or electronic equipment will be transported in the van. This special service costs more than regular van line shipment. Most van lines also have a minimum weight requirement, which means you will usually be charged for the minimum even if your shipment weighed less. Some van line carriers offer discounts to members of AAM (American Alliance of Museums); you should ask any carrier you are considering if they have such a policy.

*Note: If you are shipping an exhibition by van line, please note that Exhibits USA requires at least the following features in every case:*

- *Air-ride truck*
- *Delivery of crates to an INSIDE location which may require two drivers*
- *Van line exhibitions from Exhibits USA are never to travel by air without the prior written consent of the Exhibits USA registrar*

### Fine Art

This is ground transportation by companies that specialize in moving only artwork. The drivers are experienced art handlers. All trucks are air-ride and climate-controlled with dual drivers. The work does not need to be as carefully crated for a fine art shipper; however, Exhibits USA generally transports all our exhibitions in sturdy wood crates as an extra precaution to protect the contents. We use fine art transportation companies for high-value, irreplaceable, original works of art and for fragile objects.

Hosting venues are required to adhere to the shipping standard assigned to each exhibition.

For assistance with shipping and security logistics, please contact EUSA's registrar, Kelly Clark, at [kelly@maaa.org](mailto:kelly@maaa.org) or call 800-473-3872, ext. 212.