HEAVY WEIGHT?

DHL Heavy Weight Express:
Air Freight Solutions for 50kg+ Shipments

What is DHL Heavy Weight Express?

Global supply chains are becoming increasingly complex. Businesses are managing multi-country sourcing, lean inventories, and higher customer expectations, while navigating disruptions that have become an ongoing reality of global trade. In this environment, the margin for error is shrinking.

DHL Heavy Weight Express is designed to bring the speed and simplicity of express shipping to larger, heavier shipments that traditionally move through more complex freight networks.

Instead of relying on multiple providers, shipments move through a single, fully coordinated DHL Express network from pickup to delivery.

Fewer handoffs mean more consistent handling, greater control, faster transit times, more reliable schedules, and end-to-end visibility.

The goal is simple: help businesses move heavy weight shipments with the confidence of express, not the uncertainty of standard air freight.

The role of Heavy Weight Shipping in modern supply chains

Global supply chains today are faster – but also more complex and more exposed to disruption.

Businesses are managing:

- Multi-country sourcing
- Just-in-time inventory models
- Higher customer expectations for speed and reliability

DHL Heavy Weight Express doesn't replace traditional freight; instead, it complements it by adding a layer of predictability and control to complex supply chains.

It helps businesses:

- Reduce operational uncertainty
- Support time-critical flows
- Protect production continuity
- Recover faster when disruptions occur

Key benefits of DHL Heavy Weight Express

Move heavy shipments as fast as your business needs

Ideal for urgent deliveries where standard freight timelines aren't sufficient.
Predictable, door-to-door delivery – without relying on estimated handoffs.

Built to handle large and heavy shipments

Shipments from 50 kg up to 3,000 kg total weight.
Pallets supported up to 1,000 kg per unit.

A true door-to-door service

A fully integrated solution, covering everything from pickup and transport to customs clearance and final delivery.

Predictable costs, no surprises

All-in, door-to-door pricing including customs brokerage.
Avoid unexpected surcharges and cost volatility common in freight.

Full visibility from start to finish

Monitor every stage of your shipment through a single system.
Proactive notifications help you respond quickly if plans change.

Built for global trade

Available in 210+ countries and territories worldwide.
Backed by local expertise and a consistent global network.

Heavy Weight Priority Desks: dedicated support for critical shipments

Every DHL Heavy Weight Express shipment is supported by a dedicated Priority Desk – specialist teams focused on keeping your shipment moving and resolving issues before they become disruptions.

Proactive monitoring and intervention

Priority Desk agents actively track and trace shipments throughout their journey, verifying key milestones and coordinating directly with operational and ground teams when action is needed.

Enhanced communication

Customers benefit from proactive status updates, frequent notifications, and rapid response times – providing greater visibility and peace of mind throughout the shipment journey.

Specialist expertise

Priority Desk professionals are experienced in managing complex shipments, detailed documentation, and industry-specific requirements, helping businesses navigate challenges with confidence.

Dedicated case ownership

A single point of contact provides end-to-end oversight of your shipment, ensuring accountability, faster decision-making, and rapid issue resolution.

The result? Greater control and faster problem resolution – giving you confidence when shipping heavy weight, time-critical goods.

DHL Heavy Weight Express vs other shipping methods

Factor	DHL Heavy Weight Express	Standard Air Freight	Ocean Freight
Speed	1–3 days	2–7 days	Weeks
Service type	Door-to-door	Airport-to-airport	Port-to-port
Pricing	All-inclusive	Fragmented	Fragmented
Reliability	High, guaranteed	Moderate	Lower (delays common)
Handling	Integrated	Requires coordination	Requires coordination
Best for	Urgent, heavy shipments	Larger air cargo	Bulk, low-cost shipping

Why businesses use Heavy Weight Shipping

At first glance, shipping heavier goods might seem like a simple extension of standard logistics. But in practice, it introduces a different level of complexity.

Larger shipments often involve:

- More handling points
- More coordination between partners
- More documentation
- More exposure to delays, damage, or miscommunication

Traditional air freight models typically rely on multiple handoffs – from forwarders to ground handlers to customs brokers. Each step introduces variability. And variability is where risk lives.

The challenge isn't just getting a shipment from A to B. It's doing so with predictability, visibility, and control – especially when timing matters.

Mitigating supply chain challenges with DHL Heavy Weight Express

There are several critical scenarios where DHL Heavy Weight Express is the perfect option for businesses:

When a single missing part can stop everything

One delayed shipment can halt operations and quickly escalate into costly downtime. **DHL Heavy Weight Express** reduces that risk with priority handling and proactive shipment monitoring.

When deadlines can’t move

Miss a delivery window, and you could miss your launch date. **DHL Heavy Weight Express** helps businesses meet critical deadlines with fast, predictable delivery and coordinated end-to-end shipment management.

When holding stock becomes too expensive

Holding extra inventory can protect against delays, but it also ties up cash and increases storage costs. **DHL Heavy Weight Express** gives businesses the confidence to reduce safety stock with reliable delivery and faster replenishment.

When managing high-volume shipments across multiple suppliers becomes complex

As supply chains grow, coordinating shipments across suppliers and regions can quickly become complicated. **DHL Heavy Weight Express** simplifies logistics with one integrated network and a single global partner.

When the shipment itself is high-risk

High-value, fragile, or sensitive shipments leave little room for error. **DHL Heavy Weight Express** helps protect them with specialist handling from pickup to delivery.

When disruption is inevitable

Unexpected delays and shortages can quickly ripple through your operations. **DHL Heavy Weight Express** provides a fast, reliable fallback, helping businesses recover quickly and maintain continuity.

Industries where DHL Heavy Weight Express makes the biggest difference

Automotive: Preventing production line stoppages by ensuring critical parts arrive on time.

Engineering & manufacturing: Supporting urgent repairs, maintenance, and production continuity.

Technology: Moving high-value components such as semiconductors, servers, and data center equipment.

Life sciences & healthcare: Delivering essential medical devices and diagnostic equipment.

Energy & oil & gas: Avoiding costly downtime through rapid replacement of critical components

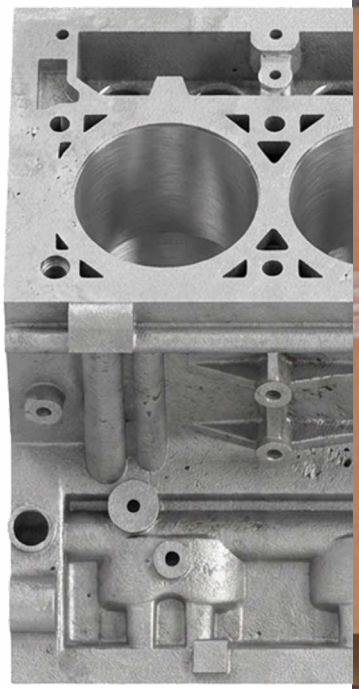
Aerospace: Transporting precision parts under strict timelines and handling requirements.

Across these sectors, the common factor is clear:
delays are costly, and reliability is essential.

What is typically shipped with DHL Heavy Weight Express?

If you’re wondering whether this service applies to your business, here are some common examples of goods shipped:

- Industrial machinery and components
- Automotive and production line parts
- Medical devices and diagnostic equipment
- High-value electronics and semiconductor equipment
- Data centre infrastructure components



These are not everyday shipments – **but when they move, they matter.**

How to ship heavy items: key checklist

Even with the right logistics solution, preparation plays a critical role in success.

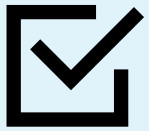
Ensure your shipment data is complete and accurate (dimensions, weight, commodity details).

Use appropriate packaging and reinforcement to protect goods in transit.

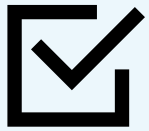
DHL Packing Guide

Prepare customs documentation in advance to avoid clearance delays.

Customs Docs Made Easy



Plan shipments around production-critical or time-sensitive milestones.



Engage logistics partners early, especially for complex or urgent shipments.

Speak to a DHL Trusted Advisor

These steps can make the difference between a smooth delivery and a costly disruption.

How to get started with DHL Heavy Weight Express

1

Talk to DHL Express about your shipment profile

If you regularly ship heavy weight, time-critical goods, start by speaking with DHL Express about your shipment needs, lanes, weights, and service requirements.

2

Open a DHL Express business account

With a business account, you'll benefit from preferential shipping rates, flexible delivery options, and dedicated support from our international logistics experts.

Apply here

3

Prepare your shipment data

For smooth international shipping, make sure your shipment information is complete and accurate, including dimensions, commodity descriptions, invoice data and any customs requirements.

4

Contact DHL Express for guidance

If your shipment is urgent, complex, or unusually large, DHL Express can help you confirm the right setup before shipping.

Contact DHL Express

DHL Heavy Weight Express FAQs

1. What qualifies as a heavy weight shipment?

A heavy weight shipment typically refers to goods weighing over 50 kg. These shipments are often palletized, bulky, or high-value, and may require specialised handling, documentation, and coordination – especially when shipping internationally.

2. What is the difference between DHL Heavy Weight Express and standard air freight?

The main difference lies in speed, control, and visibility.

Standard air freight usually involves multiple providers – such as freight forwarders, airlines, and local carriers – which can lead to fragmented tracking and variable transit times.

DHL Heavy Weight Express, by contrast, operates through a fully integrated, end-to-end network, offering faster, time-definite delivery, consistent tracking, and a single point of accountability from pickup to delivery.

3. Are there any hidden costs when using DHL Heavy Weight Express?

DHL Heavy Weight Express is designed to offer predictable, all-in pricing, including customs brokerage.

Unlike traditional freight models – where additional costs such as handling, documentation, and delivery may be added separately – pricing is typically clearer upfront, helping businesses avoid unexpected charges.

4. How fast is DHL Heavy Weight Express shipping?

Transit times depend on things like origin, destination, and shipment specifics, but shipments are typically delivered within 1–3 business days internationally.

This makes it significantly faster than ocean freight (which can take weeks) and more predictable than standard air freight, which may involve additional coordination and handling steps.

5. What types of goods are suitable for DHL Heavy Weight Express?

DHL Heavy Weight Express is commonly used for:

- Industrial machinery and components
- Automotive and production line parts
- Medical devices and diagnostic equipment
- High-value electronics and semiconductor equipment
- Data centre infrastructure

It's particularly suited to time-critical, high-value, or sensitive shipments where reliability is essential.

6. Is DHL Heavy Weight Express only for urgent shipments?

Not exclusively.

While it's often used for urgent or time-critical deliveries, many businesses also use DHL Heavy Weight Express as a strategic option – for example, to reduce inventory levels or manage risk in complex operations.

In these cases, the value comes not just from speed, but from consistencyand control.

Move heavy shipments with the confidence of express

Explore DHL Heavy Weight Express