
SHIPPING

Technical Innovations

Shipping within the U.S.A

Dome shipments are FOB our plant in Maryland. Motor freight charges are based upon weight, crate size and destination/distance. We work closely with two freight companies (Yellow Transportation and UPS Freight), and due to the volume we receive discounts off their published rates of between 60 and 65%. It is our policy to pass along our discounts to customers.

Motor freight carriers offer “tailgate” service. This means that the delivery schedule will be coordinated with you, but you must have a plan for how to get the crate from the tailgate of the truck to the ground at delivery time. For example, some freight terminals offer a liftgate service (usually only on the 6 and 10 foot domes) at extra charge. You can also have the crate delivered to a local location with a loading dock. Many people find that a good alternative is to ship the crate only to the local freight company depot (saving the “residential delivery” charges), then hire a flatbed tow truck to bring the shipment the rest of the way to their home. If you call we will be happy to discuss this option in detail, possibly including tow truck companies we have worked with in your area. We include a tip sheet in your confirmation package.

Most customers request that we make all shipping arrangements and that freight is prepaid through us (taking advantage of the volume discounts we receive). However, you may handle all shipping details with your own carrier if preferred.

Electronics and parts ordered separately from a dome will be shipped from our Gaithersburg, Maryland location by USPS Priority Mail, UPS or FedEx.

Shipping Internationally

We ship domes, accessories and electronics to customers throughout the world. Our export prices are the same as product prices in the U.S.A. However, shipping costs will often be higher because of the longer distances. Many customers are surprised at the relative low cost of ocean freight. For example, a ten foot dome can be shipped “door-to-door” in the United Kingdom with motor/ocean freight for less than we can send the same dome to many locations in the western U.S. by domestic motor freight.

We can arrange air or ocean freight (the 15 foot dome can only be shipped ocean, (unless by private cargo carrier). Our international freight carriers offer door-to-door service in many countries. The cost of air freight is usually 30%-50% higher than ocean, but the transit times are much shorter. International freight charges are based upon the dimensions of the crate, as well as the weight and destination.

Packing charges for air freight are the same as domestic. However, crates for ocean shipping are constructed of heavier, special treated material and thus packing charges higher.

Duties and taxes are paid by the purchaser at the time of delivery. For customs purposes, domes are classified as pre-fabricated buildings.