USA MEDICAL EQUIPMENT SHIPPING

How to Move Medical Equipment in the USA: A Step-by-Step Guide

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Moving a CT scanner, an ultrasound unit or a full clinic across the country is not like moving office furniture. One bad bump can mean a costly recalibration, a voided warranty or weeks of downtime.

This guide walks hospitals, clinics, dealers and manufacturers through how to move medical equipment in the USA, from the first equipment list to the day it is tested and back in service.

1. Build an equipment list first

Every good medical move starts with a list. For each piece, write down the make, model and serial number, the dimensions and weight, and anything it needs on the other end: power, data, water, gas or a dedicated circuit. Take photos of each unit and its labels. That one list drives your quote, your truck size, your crew size and your insurance.

2. Talk to the manufacturer (OEM) before anything moves

Many systems have warranty or service-contract rules about who can unplug, de-install and re-install them. CT scanners, MRI systems, C-arms, lab analyzers and surgical robots often need the OEM or a certified biomedical engineer to lock the gantry or stage, ramp down a magnet, or package sensitive parts. Ask the OEM:

- Do you need to de-install and re-install the unit, and how far ahead do we book you?
- Are there shipping locks, brackets or original crates we must use?
- Will moving it affect the warranty or service contract?
- What calibration or testing is required before it goes back into patient use?

3. Prepare the equipment

- Back up the data, then remove or wipe protected health information so the move stays HIPAA-compliant.
- Drain fluids, empty reservoirs and remove consumables.
- Clean and decontaminate the unit and keep a record that it was done.
- Remove or secure loose parts, cables, monitors and accessories, and label everything.
- Check batteries. Lithium batteries have shipping rules, especially by air.

4. Measure the path at both ends

Most delays happen at the building, not on the highway. Measure every doorway, hallway and turn. Check elevator size and weight capacity, stairs, ramps and floor load ratings for heavy imaging equipment. Confirm whether there is a loading dock or whether you need a liftgate truck, and when the facility allows deliveries.

5. Choose the right kind of transport

- Air-ride suspension: cuts road shock and vibration for imaging, lab and electronic equipment.
- Climate control: protects sensitive electronics, optics and reagents from heat, cold and humidity.
- Dedicated truck: your equipment is the only load, with no terminal transfers. Best for high-value systems.
- Hot shot or STAT: a direct, same-day run when equipment is down and patients are waiting.
- White glove inside delivery: a trained crew brings the unit to the room, unpacks it and removes the debris.
- Crating or blanket wrap: custom crates for long distance or international moves, padded blanket wrap for local moves.

Moving equipment overseas? Plan for export paperwork, ISPM-15 heat-treated wood crates and customs clearance at both ends.

6. Get the insurance right

Standard carrier liability is often limited by weight, which can be far below what a medical system is worth. Ask for a certificate of insurance, declare the real value, and confirm the coverage before pickup, not after.

7. Paperwork and chain of custody

Use a bill of lading that lists every piece. Photograph the equipment at pickup and at delivery. Keep a chain-of-custody record of who handled it and when. If anything looks damaged at delivery, write it on the delivery receipt before you sign.

8. Delivery, installation and testing

Plan the delivery with the receiving team: room of choice, set in place, debris removal and the OEM or biomed appointment for re-installation and calibration. Equipment should be tested and signed off before it is used on patients.

9. Typical timeline

- Large imaging (CT, MRI, cath lab): start planning 2 to 4 weeks ahead because of OEM scheduling and site prep.
- Lab, surgical and general equipment: about 1 to 2 weeks is usually enough.
- Urgent replacement parts and down equipment: hot shot or STAT the same day.

Quick checklist

- Equipment list with make, model, serial, dimensions and weight
- OEM contacted and de-install / re-install booked
- Data backed up and patient data removed
- Unit drained, decontaminated and secured
- Path measured at both ends, dock or liftgate confirmed
- Transport type chosen (air-ride, climate, dedicated, hot shot)
- Insurance and declared value confirmed
- Photos, bill of lading and chain of custody
- Delivery, install and testing scheduled

Why USA Medical Equipment Shipping

- USA Medical Equipment Shipping is an asset-based carrier that moves medical equipment nationwide, in all 50 states.
- Air-ride, climate-controlled trucks and white glove inside delivery.
- Imaging systems, CT scanners, lab and surgical equipment, auction pickups and full facility moves.
- Free quote, usually within 1 hour.

Get a free quote

Call (866) 216-7742 or request a quote online:
https://nationalmedicalequipmentlogistics.com/#quote
Have ready: Pickup and delivery ZIP codes, domestic or international, equipment make and model, dimensions and weight, photos, and your requested pickup date.

This guide is general information. Always follow your equipment manufacturer's instructions and your facility's policies.