

PACKAGE SIZE LIMITS

Couriers surveyed had a maximum weight limit of 32 kilos (70 lbs) to 56 kilos (125 lbs) for individual packages, but this will vary by destination. Canada Post weight limits are somewhat less at 20kg for overseas packages and 30kg for US destinations. Freight forwarders and air carriers are not limited in weight until an individual item reaches several tonnes.

Note also that postal and courier services will have package volume limits determined by the addition of the longest dimension plus the girth (or the measurement around the shortest dimension). For example, a common size restriction is that length x width x height must be less than 330cm, with no one side larger than 270cm. To certain overseas destinations maximum package sizes may be smaller.

Shipments by courier or freight forwarder will be priced on either a weight or measurement basis and charged against the maximum of the two figures. Thus an item weighing 5 kilos in a small box will be charged by weight. However, if it was packaged in a large box it may be charged at a higher rate based on the volume used.

Don't over-package, you may end up paying extra.

INSURANCE

Carrier provided insurance will rarely cover the full value of your shipment. You must ensure adequate coverage.

Carriers in early 1994 quoted from 30 cents to \$1.00 per 100 dollar value. There was considerable variation in price between carriers, and some variation in price between different Ontario offices of the same carrier. Some carriers insure the first \$100 value free. Others may offer a good rate but have a minimum premium level. Be sure to ask about claim procedures; some may be exasperating, especially if damage occurs out of Canada and the carrier does not have its own claims department. Insurance limits also vary by country, so check carefully if the shipment is valuable.

Independent insurers may quote for less, particularly for individual high value shipments. Using independent insurers for regular shipments is also possible, but minimum annual premium may apply, and there may be more paperwork.

Export Insurance Costs for a 10kg Soapstone Carving

Early 1994

