



Soy Transportation Coalition • 1255 SW Prairie Trail Pkwy • Ankeny, Iowa 50023

Classes of vessels and cargo capacity

Handysize: numerically the most common size of bulk vessel; 15,000-35,000 metric tons deadweight

Handymax: 35,000-60,000 metric tons deadweight; 492-656 feet in length

Seawaymax: the largest size which can transit the canal locks of the St. Lawrence Seaway; 740 feet long by 78 feet wide

Panamax: the largest size which can transit the locks of the Panama Canal; 55,000-80,000 metric tons deadweight; 965 feet long by 106 feet wide by 190 feet high. A Panamax vessel has seven cargo holds. Each hold is each capable of accommodating 300,000 bushels of soybeans – for a total of 2.1 million bushels.

Suezmax: the largest size which can transit the Suez Canal; since the Suez Canal does not have locks, the main factor limiting size is draft – currently 53 ft.; 150,000 metric tons deadweight

Capesize: larger than Panamax and Suezmax vessels; must transit around the Cape of Good Hope and Cape Horn in order to travel between oceans; above 150,000 metric tons deadweight