Weight-Based Shipping Settings Reference

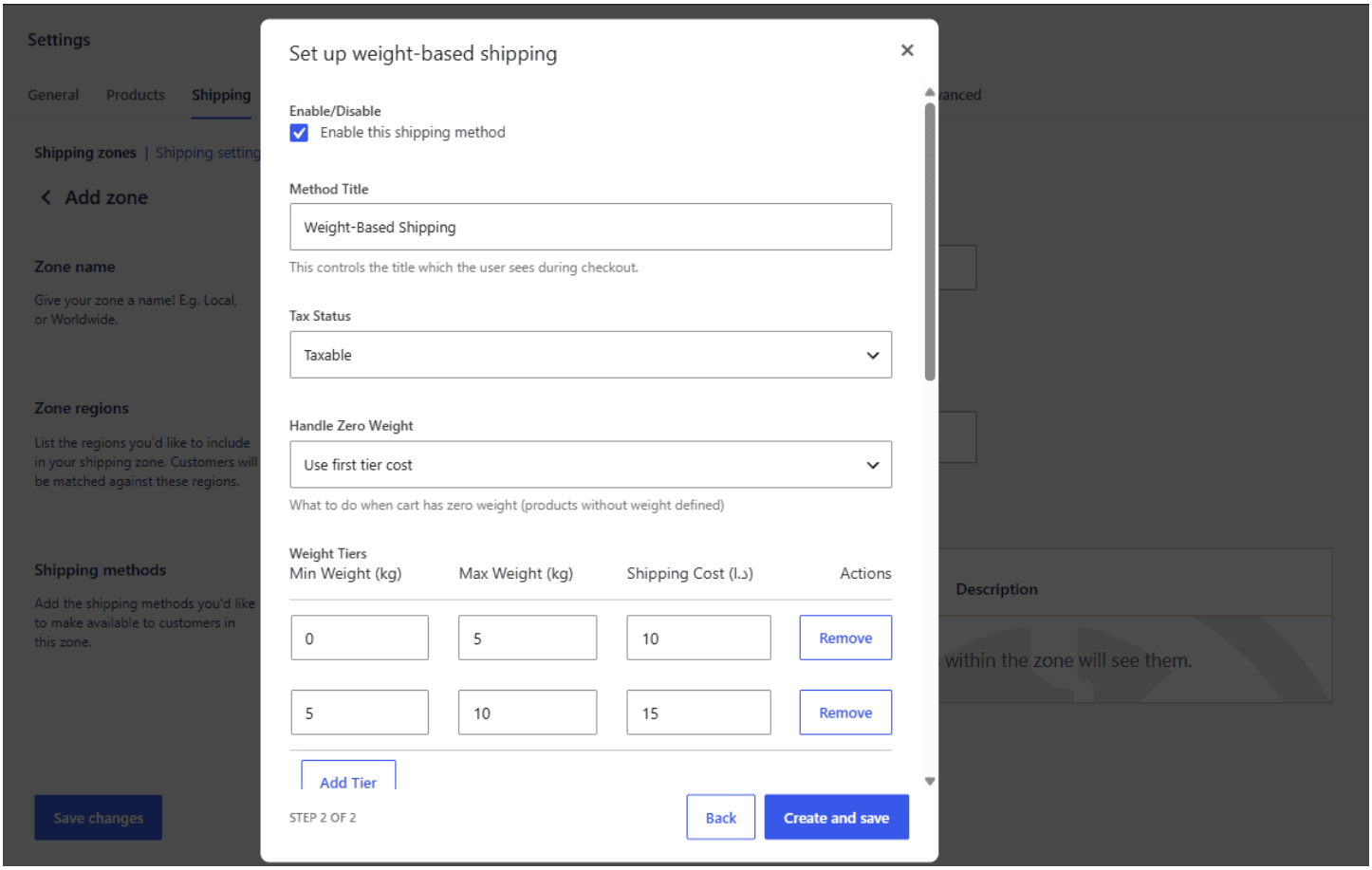
References · https://wpfactory.com/docs/weight-based-shipping-settings/

This reference lists every setting in Weight-Based Shipping for WooCommerce with its type, default and stored key. All settings live inside each zone's method instance: go to **WPFactory > Weight-Based Shipping** (also reachable at **WooCommerce > Settings > Shipping**), open a zone and edit **Weight-Based Shipping**.

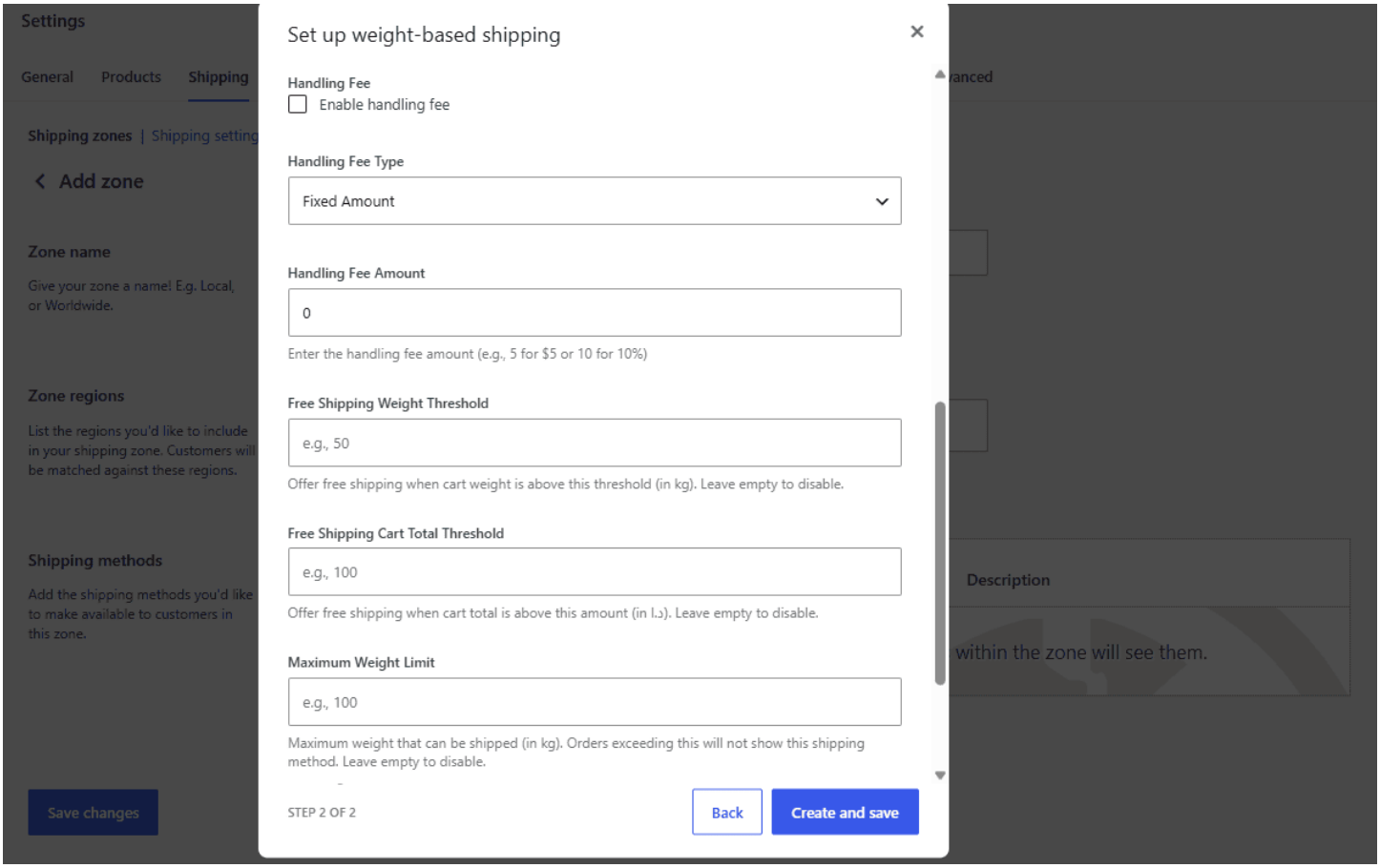
There is no global settings page. Add the method to three zones and you have three independent copies of everything below.

Free vs Pro

Weight-Based Shipping has no Free/Pro split in its code. Every setting on this page, including weight tiers, the handling fee, both free shipping thresholds and the maximum weight limit, is available in every install. Nothing on this page is locked or labeled as a Pro option.



The upper half of the modal: the basic settings and the tier table.



The lower half of the modal: fee, thresholds and weight limit.

Basic

Setting	Type	Default	Key	Notes
Enable/Disable	Checkbox	Enabled	`enabled`	Unticked, the method returns no rate at all. This is the method's own checkbox, separate from the on/off toggle in the zone's method list; both must be on.
Method Title	Text	`Weight-Based Shipping`	`title`	What the customer sees at checkout. `(Free)` is appended automatically when a free-shipping threshold fires.

Setting	Type	Default	Key	Notes
Tax Status	Select	`Taxable`	`tax_status`	`Taxable` or `None`. WooCommerce applies the tax; the method only declares whether the rate is taxable.
Handle Zero Weight	Select	`Use first tier cost`	`handle_zero_weight`	What to do when the cart weighs exactly zero. `Use first tier cost` prices the cart as weight 0, which lands in your first tier. `Hide shipping method` returns no rate.

Weight tiers

Setting	Type	Default	Key
Weight Tiers	Custom table	Three rows: 0 to 5 costs 10, 5 to 10 costs 15, 10 and up costs 25	`tiers`

Each row has three fields:

Column	Notes
Min Weight	Inclusive. Blank is stored as `0`.
Max Weight	**Exclusive.** Blank means no upper limit.
Shipping Cost	In store currency. Blank is stored as `0`.

Behavior worth knowing:

- Rows are sorted by minimum weight when saved, so the order you type them in does not matter.
- Rows where all three fields are empty are dropped on save.
- The defaults are live values, not placeholders: a method you never configure quotes 10/15/25.

- Values are normalized with WooCommerce's `wc_format_decimal()` when saved. A blank Min Weight or Shipping Cost is saved as `0`; a blank Max Weight stays blank (no limit).
- If you save the table with no rows at all, the three default tiers are used again.
- The admin warns about rows where max is not greater than min, and about overlapping ranges, but still saves them.

Full rules, including what happens to weights that match nothing, are in set up your weight tiers.

Handling fee

Setting	Type	Default	Key	Notes
Handling Fee	Checkbox	Off	`handling_fee_enabled`	Master switch for the two settings below.
Handling Fee Type	Select	`Fixed Amount`	`handling_fee_type`	`Fixed Amount` or `Percentage`.
Handling Fee Amount	Number	`0`	`handling_fee_amount`	Step 0.01, minimum 0. `5` means 5.00 fixed, or 5% when the type is Percentage. A percentage is taken **of the tier cost**, not of the cart total.

The fee is never applied when a free-shipping threshold has fired.

Free shipping

Setting	Type	Default	Key	Notes
Free Shipping Weight Threshold	Number	*(empty)*	`free_shipping_weight`	Shipping becomes free when the cart weight is **at or above** this. Note the direction: heavier carts ship free. Empty disables it.

Setting	Type	Default	Key	Notes
Free Shipping Cart Total Threshold	Number	*(empty)*	`free_shipping_amount`	Shipping becomes free when the package contents total is **at or above** this. The figure is the value of the goods before tax and after coupon discounts. Empty disables it.

Either threshold firing is enough. There is no way to require both.

Weight limit

Setting	Type	Default	Key	Notes
Maximum Weight Limit	Number	*(empty)*	`max_weight`	The method withdraws when the cart weighs **more than** this. Exactly the limit is allowed. Empty disables it.
Maximum Weight Exceeded Message	Textarea	`Sorry, your order exceeds our maximum shipping weight. Please contact us for a custom shipping quote.`	`max_weight_message`	Added to the cart as an error notice when the limit is exceeded.

Where the values are stored

WooCommerce stores each instance's settings as one serialized option:

```
woocommerce_weight_based_shipping_{instance_id}_settings
```

`{instance_id}` is the id WooCommerce assigns when you add the method to a zone (stored in the `instance_id` column of the `woocommerce_shipping_zone_methods` table). The keys inside that option are the `Key` column above.

These keys are part of the plugin's compatibility contract and do not change between versions, so an existing configuration survives every update.

Related store settings

Two WooCommerce settings the method depends on but does not own:

Setting	Where	Why it matters
Weight unit	WooCommerce > Settings > Products > General	Every weight in the method is read in this unit, and nothing is converted if you change it.
Shipping zones	WooCommerce > Settings > Shipping	Decides which customers are offered this instance at all.

Where to go next

- Set up your weight tiers
- How the shipping cost is calculated
- Developer reference



WEIGHT-BASED SHIPPING FOR WOOCOMMERCE

Every setting covered here is included in Weight-Based Shipping for WooCommerce, with no locked Pro options.

Get Weight-Based Shipping →

Need a hand? Our team answers every ticket on the Weight-Based Shipping support forum.

Related articles

- How to Offer Economy and Express Weight-Based Shipping Options
- How to Offer Free Shipping Over an Order Amount with Weight-Based Rates
- How to Set Different Weight-Based Shipping Rates per Zone or Country
- Weight-Based Shipping FAQ and Troubleshooting
- Install Weight-Based Shipping and Add It to a Zone