Smart Shipping Method Rules

User Guide

Webmaster Ramos

Version 1.0.0

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Smart Shipping Method Rules

User Guide
Version: 1.0.0

Compatibility: Adobe Commerce and Magento Open Source 2.4.7 – 2.4.9, PHP 8.1 – 8.5
Vendor: Webmaster Ramos

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1. Overview

Native Magento carriers let you choose which methods are allowed and which countries are served – but only globally. There is no way to tie a specific method to a specific destination. A merchant shipping worldwide from the US sees every allowed method offered for every allowed country, however irrelevant that method is for the customer standing at checkout.

Smart Shipping Methods adds a rule layer on top of the carriers you already use. A rule pairs a destination – a country list or a reusable country group – with one or more carriers, the methods those carriers may offer there, and how those methods should be presented. Rules can be narrowed further by store view, customer group, cart subtotal, cart weight and a date window, and they can adjust the price of the methods they keep.

The extension is rule-based and runs entirely on your server. It filters the rates Magento has already collected, so it works with FedEx, UPS, USPS, DHL and any third-party carrier module without integrating with any of them individually. Because filtering happens server-side, the result appears in the checkout of any theme; the extension renders no storefront markup of its own.

Key Features

- Per-country or per-country-group rules, with reusable groups
- Four display modes: all, all cheapest-first, cheapest, N cheapest
- One rule can govern several carriers, optionally comparing them against each other so a single cheapest option wins overall (rate shopping)
- Price adjustments: fixed or percentage surcharge, fixed or percentage discount, or a flat override
- Conditions: minimum and maximum order subtotal, minimum and maximum weight
- Scoping: store views, customer groups, and an Active From / Active To window
- Priority-ordered rules with fall-through, so conditional and default rules compose naturally
- Works with any carrier, and survives carrier method renames

Compatibility

Platform	Versions
Adobe Commerce	2.4.7 – 2.4.9
Magento Open Source	2.4.7 – 2.4.9
PHP	8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5
Database	MySQL 8.0+ / MariaDB 10.6+
Themes	Any – filtering is server-side, no storefront markup is rendered

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2. Installation

Via Composer

```
composer require webmaster-ramos/module-smart-shipping-methods
bin/magento module:enable WebRamos_SmartShippingMethods
bin/magento setup:upgrade
bin/magento setup:di:compile     # production mode only
bin/magento cache:flush
```

Verify

```
bin/magento module:status WebRamos_SmartShippingMethods
```

Installing the extension changes nothing on its own. Until you create a rule, every carrier behaves exactly as before.

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3. Configuration

Navigate to **Stores → Configuration → Webmaster Ramos → Smart Shipping Methods**.

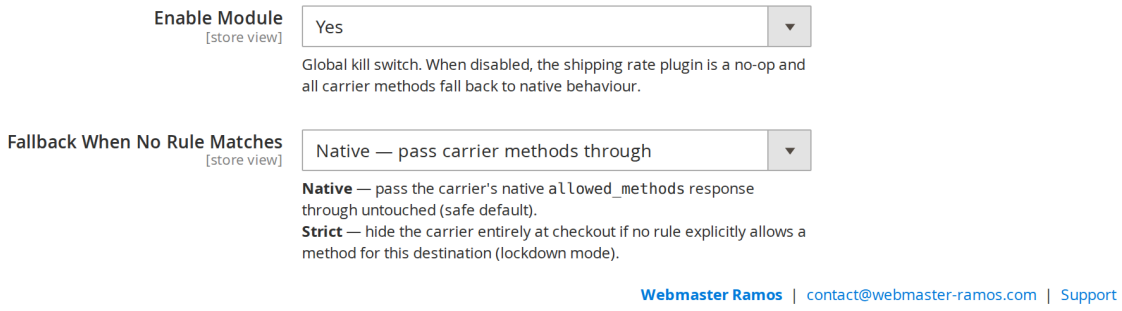

Figure 1: Extension configuration

Field	Description	Default
Enable	Master switch. When off, no rule is applied and every carrier's rates pass through untouched.	`Yes`
Fallback Mode	What happens to a carrier that has no matching rule for the current destination. See below.	`Native`

3.1 Fallback Mode

Native – the carrier's own allowed methods are respected. This is the safe default: installing the extension on a live store changes nothing until rules are added, and any destination you have not written a rule for keeps working as it always did.

Strict – a carrier with no matching rule is hidden entirely for that destination. Choose this when you want complete control over which countries each carrier serves, and you have written rules for every combination you intend to support.

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4. Country Groups

Stores → Smart Shipping Methods → Country Groups

A country group is a reusable destination list. Define `EU` once and reference it from as many rules as you need, instead of repeating the same twenty countries in each rule.

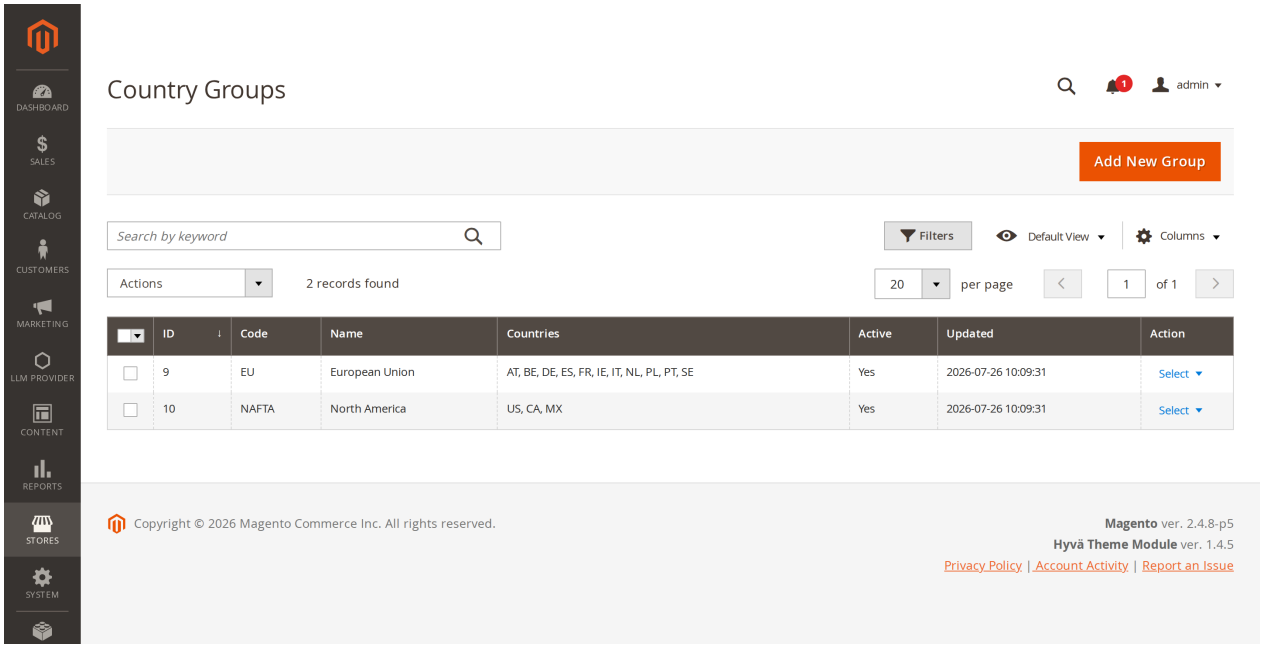

Figure 2: Country Groups grid

Field	Description
Code	Stable short key, unique across groups – for example `EU`, `NAFTA`, `APAC`. Rules reference the group, so the code is worth keeping meaningful.
Name	Display name shown in the rule form.
Countries	The countries in the group.
Active	Inactive groups are ignored by every rule that references them.

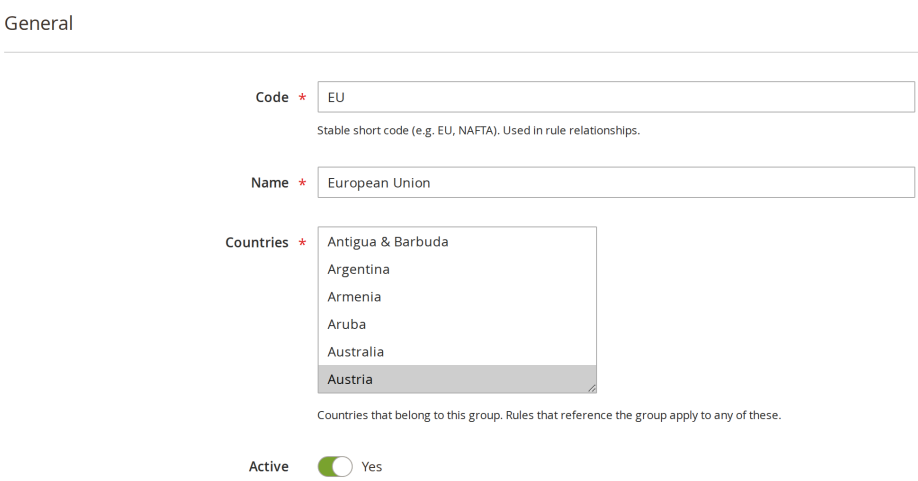

Figure 3: Country Group form

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5. Shipping Rules

Stores → Smart Shipping Methods → Shipping Rules

A rule is the unit of decision-making: it says *for this destination, these carriers may offer these methods, presented this way.*

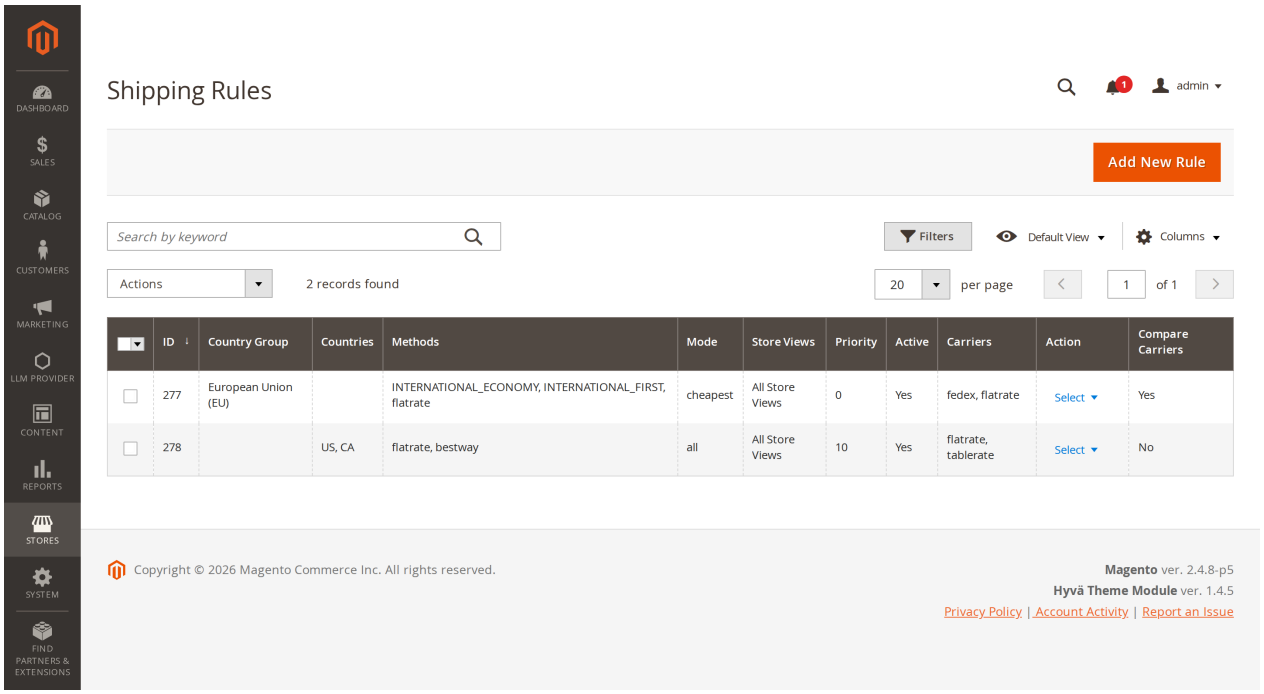

Figure 4: Shipping Rules grid

The grid summarises each rule – its carriers, destination, methods, mode and scope. Long lists are shortened; hover a shortened cell to see the full value.

5.1 Scope

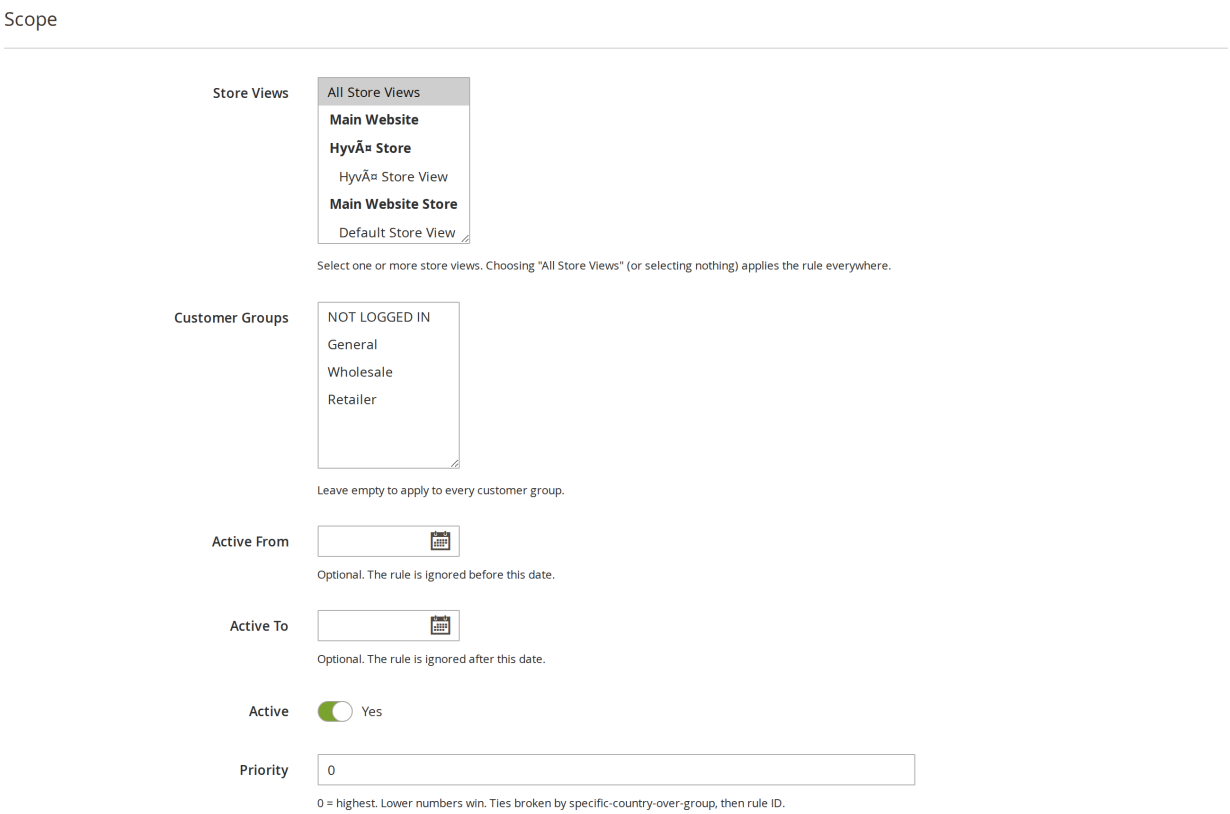

Figure 5: Rule form – Scope

Field	Description
Store Views	The store views the rule applies to. Choosing *All Store Views*, or selecting nothing, applies it everywhere.
Customer Groups	Restrict the rule to selected customer groups. Leave empty to apply to every group, including guests.
Active From / Active To	Optional date window, inclusive, evaluated in the store's timezone. Useful for seasonal or promotional rules.
Active	Turn the rule off without deleting it.
Priority	Ascending – `0` is the highest. Determines which rule wins when several match.

5.2 Destination

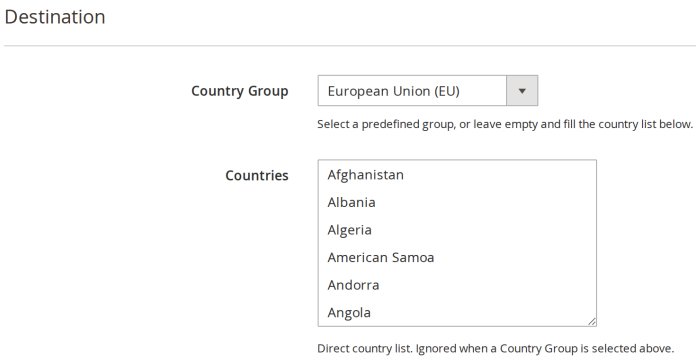

Figure 6: Rule form – Destination

A rule targets **either** a country group **or** a direct country list – not both, and not neither. The form rejects a rule that breaks this, so a rule always has exactly one clear destination.

Field	Description
Country Group	Select a predefined group. Leave empty to use the country list below.
Countries	A direct list of countries. Ignored when a country group is selected.

5.3 Carriers and Methods

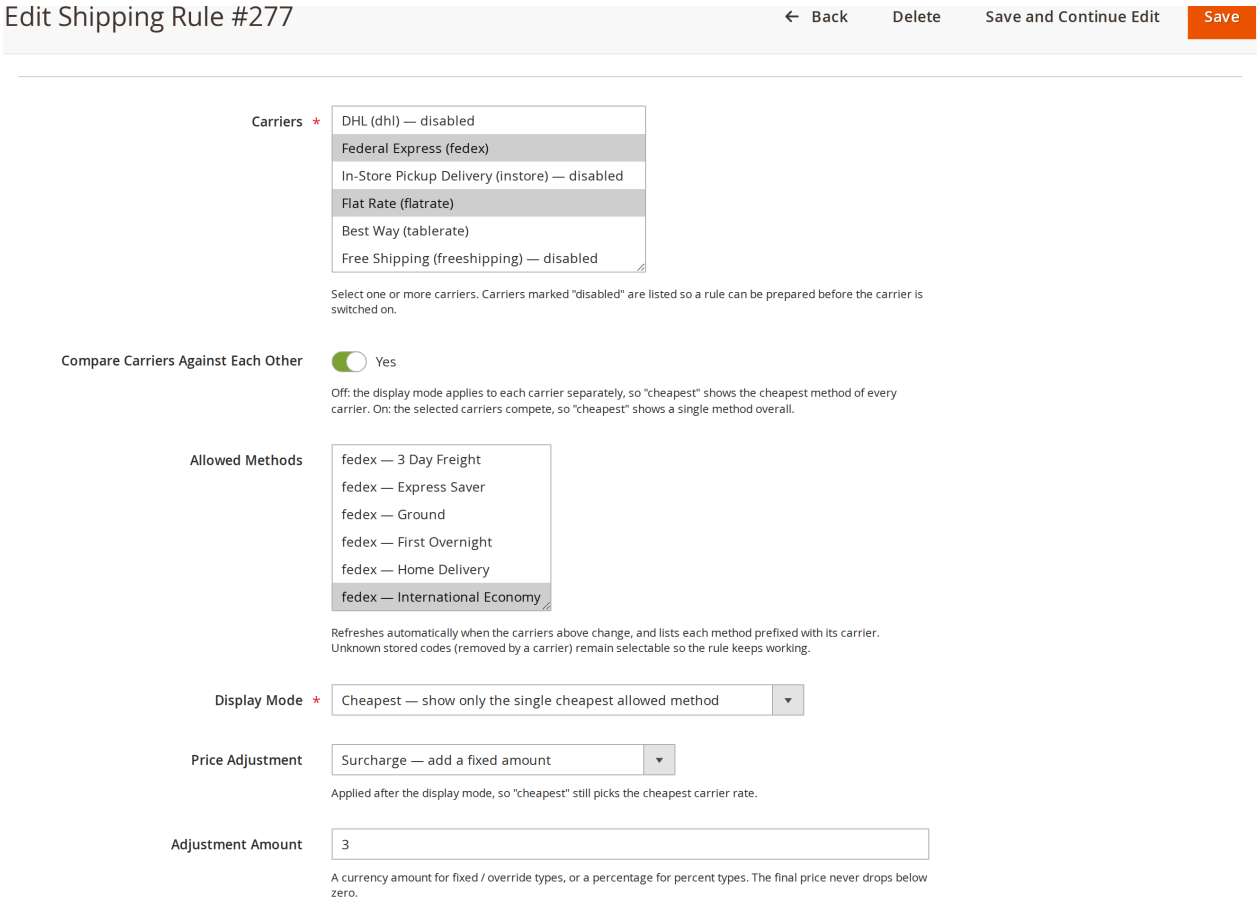

Figure 7: Rule form – Carriers and Methods

Field	Description
Carriers	One or more carriers the rule governs. Carriers currently disabled in Magento are still listed, marked *disabled*, so a rule can be prepared before the carrier is switched on.
Compare Carriers Against Each Other	Off: the display mode applies to each carrier separately. On: the selected carriers compete and the mode applies to the pooled result. See §5.4.
Allowed Methods	The methods those carriers may offer at this destination. The list refreshes whenever you change the carriers, and each entry is prefixed with its carrier.
Display Mode	How the surviving methods are presented – see §5.4.

Field	Description
How Many Methods	Only for *N cheapest*: how many of the cheapest methods to show.
Price Adjustment	Optional rewrite of the price – see §5.5.

> **Important:** Allowed Methods filters strictly. A method you do not select is removed from the checkout. When a rule covers several carriers, remember to select the methods of *every* carrier you listed, or the ones you missed will disappear.

5.4 Display modes and carrier comparison

The display mode decides how many of the surviving methods the customer actually sees.

Mode	Result
All	Every allowed method, in the carrier's own order.
All, cheapest first	Every allowed method, ordered by price.
Cheapest	Only the single cheapest allowed method.
N cheapest	The N cheapest allowed methods.

Compare Carriers Against Each Other decides what "cheapest" is measured across. Suppose a rule covers FedEx and Flat Rate, FedEx quotes $35.04 and Flat Rate quotes $5.00:

Setting	Display Mode	Customer sees
Off	Cheapest	Both: the cheapest FedEx method **and** Flat Rate
On	Cheapest	Only Flat Rate at $5.00

Leave it **off** when each carrier should contribute its own best option – the common case. Turn it **on** for rate shopping: the carriers compete and only the winner is offered.

5.5 Price adjustments

A rule can rewrite the price of the methods it keeps.

Type	Effect
No adjustment	Use the carrier rate as-is.
Surcharge – fixed amount	Add a fixed amount to each surviving rate.
Surcharge – percentage	Add a percentage of the rate.
Discount – fixed amount	Subtract a fixed amount.
Discount – percentage	Subtract a percentage of the rate.
Override	Replace the rate with a fixed price.

Two guarantees are worth knowing. The adjustment is applied **after** the display mode, so *Cheapest* still selects the winner on the carrier's own rate and only then adjusts it – a surcharge cannot change which method wins. And the final price is never negative: a discount larger than the rate results in `0.00`.

5.6 Conditions

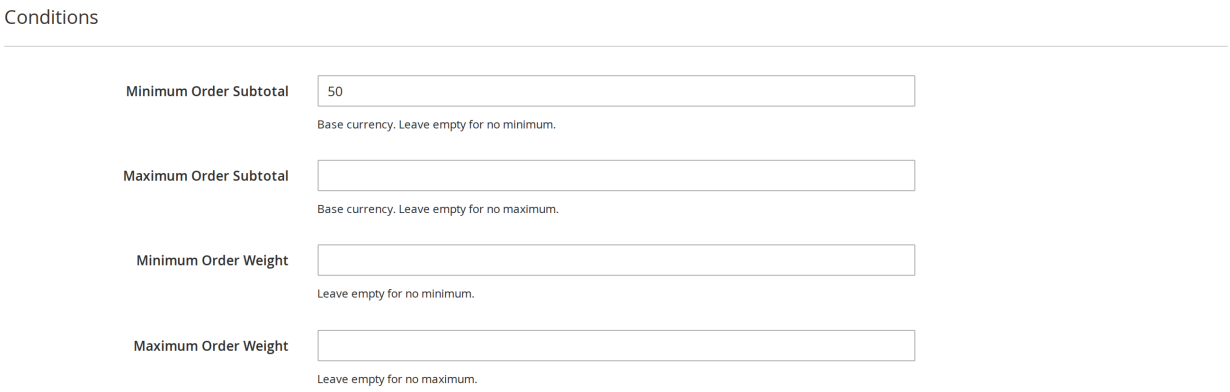

Figure 8: Rule form – Conditions

Field	Description
Minimum / Maximum Order Subtotal	Bounds on the cart value, in base currency. Inclusive.
Minimum / Maximum Order Weight	Bounds on the cart weight. Inclusive.

Leave a field empty for no bound. A rule whose conditions are not met is skipped, and the next matching rule is considered – see §6.

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6. How a rule is chosen

When several rules match the same destination, store and carrier, they are considered in this order:

1. **Priority** – ascending, `0` first.
2. **Specificity** – a direct-country rule beats a country-group rule at equal priority.
3. **Rule ID** – ascending, as a final deterministic tiebreak.

The first rule whose conditions actually hold is applied; rules whose conditions fail are skipped. This is what lets conditional and default rules work together:

Priority	Conditions	Methods
0	Subtotal from 200	Express methods
10	none	The default method set

A cart of $50 skips the first rule and lands on the second. A cart of $250 matches the first and stops there. Only one rule is ever in force for a given destination and carrier – rules are never merged, which keeps the outcome predictable.

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7. Use cases

7.1 Show only the cheapest option per carrier

A merchant offers FedEx and Flat Rate and wants each to contribute a single option, so the checkout stays short without hiding a carrier entirely.

1. Create a rule for the destination.
2. Select both carriers under **Carriers**.
3. Leave **Compare Carriers Against Each Other** off.
4. Set **Display Mode** to *Cheapest*.
5. Under **Allowed Methods**, select the methods of both carriers.

The customer sees the cheapest FedEx method and Flat Rate.

7.2 Rate shopping – one best price overall

The same merchant instead wants a single recommended option, whichever carrier provides it.

1. Same rule, but turn **Compare Carriers Against Each Other** on.
2. Keep **Display Mode** on *Cheapest*.

The carriers now compete and only the overall cheapest method is offered.

7.3 Free shipping above a threshold, standard below

1. Rule A – priority `0`, **Minimum Order Subtotal** `200`, **Price Adjustment** *Override* with value `0`.
2. Rule B – priority `10`, no conditions, no adjustment.

Carts of $200 and above hit rule A and ship free. Smaller carts fall through to rule B and pay the carrier rate.

7.4 A handling fee on international orders

1. Create a country group with your international destinations.
2. Create a rule targeting that group.
3. Set **Price Adjustment** to *Surcharge – fixed amount* with your handling fee.

Every method the rule keeps is quoted with the fee included.

7.5 Seasonal express-only period

1. Create a rule listing only your express methods.
2. Set **Active From** and **Active To** to the period.
3. Give it priority `0`, and keep your normal rule at a higher number.

During the window the express rule wins; outside it the rule is skipped and the normal one applies.

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8. Storefront result

Rules are applied while Magento collects shipping rates, so the outcome is visible in the checkout's Shipping Methods block.

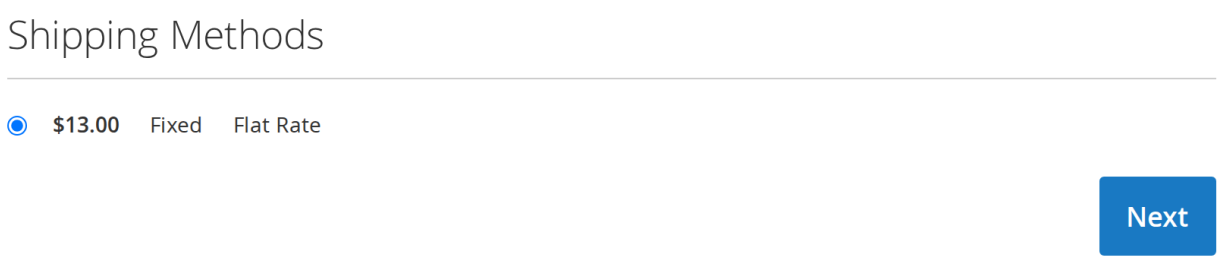

Figure 9: Checkout – shipping methods after filtering

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9. Troubleshooting

A carrier disappeared from checkout entirely. Most often the rule's **Allowed Methods** does not include that carrier's methods. The list filters strictly, and a rule covering several carriers needs the methods of each. Also check **Fallback Mode**: in *Strict* mode a carrier with no matching rule is hidden by design.

My rule does not seem to apply. Check, in order: the rule is **Active**; the extension is enabled; the destination country is in the rule's group or country list; the store view and customer group match; the date window covers today; and the cart satisfies the subtotal and weight bounds. Remember that a rule whose conditions fail is skipped in favour of the next matching rule.

Two rules match and the wrong one wins. Rules are resolved by priority, then specificity, then rule ID. Lower priority numbers win. If both rules have the same priority, the one with a direct country list beats the one using a group.

A carrier shows fewer methods than I selected. The extension can only filter what the carrier returned. Carriers decide for themselves which methods apply to a given destination, weight and account – for example, a premium international service may simply not be offered to a particular postcode. Methods a carrier did not quote cannot be displayed.

A carrier returns nothing at all. Live carriers reject packages without a weight. If your products have no weight set, the carrier answers with an error and disappears from checkout – this is independent of any rule. Set product weights and re-test.

Logs. Magento writes shipping issues to `var/log/system.log` and `var/log/exception.log`. Enable the carrier's own debug option to record its request and response in `var/log/shipping.log`.

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10. Support and Changelog

- **Author:** Webmaster Ramos
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- **Website:** https://webmaster-ramos.com
- **Support:** https://webmaster-ramos.com/support
- **Changelog:** see `CHANGELOG.md` inside the package