

Carrying on Shabbat – Definitions

Ref: *Sefer Zemanim, Hilchot Shabbat, Chapter 12 and 13*

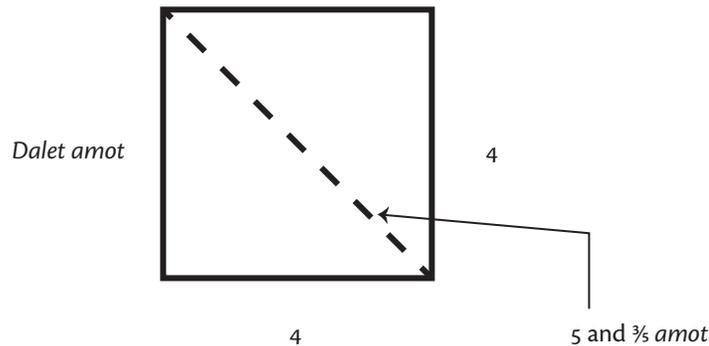


The Rambam describes carrying as a Mosheh Misinai with also reference in the Written Torah.

There are 2 aspects to this carrying

Moving an article from one domain to another

Carrying an article from within a square of 4×4 *amah*. Since it can be viewed as if he is carrying the object within the square diagonally, he would only be chayav if he carried it a minimum distance of approx. $5\frac{3}{5}$ *amah*.



To complete the work of carrying, other factors must also be in place.

- Article must be of a substantial size
- Article must be
 - Picked up
 - Carried
 - Put down
- To be liable, carrying must be in a normal manner

	Liable for carrying	Explanation
Place of lifting and place of resting are each 4×4 <i>amah</i>	✓	If size less, not liable
Lifts article from hand in domain 1 and places in hand of someone else in domain 2	✓	Human hand is considered as 4×4 <i>amah</i>
Picks up articles but does not place in another domain or vice versa	✗	Person must do both actions himself to be liable
Colleague took article from domain 1 and gave to a colleague in domain 2	✓	One who gave is liable. The other is not
Standing in domain 1 with article in hand. Moves to domain 2 and then stands still	✓	Beginning to walk and then resting are like lifting and placing

Walk less than 4 amah	×	Theoretically a person can carry a long distance using this procedure of stopping and starting
Drags article with one end lying on ground	✓	For although the item has not been lifted off the ground, it has been “uprooted” from the first place.
Intends to move article only within one domain and then changes his mind and moves it into a second	×	Because the lifting was done without an intention to move the item into a different domain.
Throws article from one domain into another to a place intended	✓	
Throws article from one domain to another but it does not get to intended destination	×	Again, intention is important
Thrown articles goes from a private domain through public domain to another private domain	×	Provided that the article remained more than 3 amah above ground and did not rest on anything in the public domain. 3 amah or less is regarded as an extension of the ground.
Passes article from private domain through a public domain to another private domain, where the 2 private domains span over the length of the public domain.	✓	Because this is exactly how it was done in the mishkan i.e. passing boards from wagon to wagon. Each wagon was regarded as a private domain, with the public domain in between. However, it is important to remember that the wagons were one behind the other.