

Shopify Functions Decision Table

Written against Shopify API version 2026-07. Every limit and API name below is taken from the Function APIs reference at that version, checked on 1 August 2026.

Use it to decide where a rule belongs before anyone writes code.

1. Does It Belong In A Function At All

Three questions. A no on any of them means the answer is not a Function.

- ☐ **Is it a decision Shopify already asks for?** Functions are never invoked directly by URL. Shopify invokes them as needed within the customer journey. If nothing in that journey asks the question, there is nothing to answer.
- ☐ **Does it change a decision rather than a presentation?** None of the nine Function APIs changes how a page looks or adds a field to checkout. That is the checkout extensibility surface: checkout UI extensions, the Checkout Branding API and Pixels.
- ☐ **Can it answer inside the limits?** See section 3.

2. Which Of The Nine APIs

Match the rule to the API before scoping. Version 2026-07.

IF THE RULE DECIDES	THE API IS
What a line or delivery costs	Discount
What is in the cart, as lines	Cart Transform
Which delivery methods are offered	Delivery Customization
Which payment methods are offered	Payment Customization
Whether the cart may proceed	Cart and Checkout Validation
Where an order is fulfilled from	Order Routing Location Rule
How items may be grouped for fulfilment	Fulfillment Constraints
Which pickup points are offered	Pickup Point Delivery Option Generator
Which local pickup options are offered	Local Pickup Delivery Option Generator

Both pickup generators are marked unstable in the reference. An unstable API can change without the notice a stable one gets, so do not put a launch date against one.

3. The Limits, Which Are The Specification

Fixed limits:

- ☐ Compiled binary size: **256 kB**
- ☐ Runtime linear memory: **10,000 kB**
- ☐ Runtime stack memory: **512 kB**
- ☐ Logs written: **1 kB**, truncated beyond that

Dynamic limits, **stated for carts of up to 200 line items**:

- ☐ Execution instruction count: **11 million instructions**
- ☐ Function input: **128 kB**
- ☐ Function output: **20 kB**

Input query limits:

- ☐ Maximum query size: **3000 bytes**, excluding comments
- ☐ Metafield values: **10,000 bytes** maximum
- ☐ List arguments: **100 elements** maximum
- ☐ Maximum query cost: **30**

4. Sizing It Against Your Own Data

- ☐ Find your largest realistic cart, not your average one. Check the last twelve months.
- ☐ Count line items on that cart.
- ☐ Ask whether the logic grows with the number of lines, or with lines multiplied by lines. Anything that compares every line against every other line grows fast against a fixed instruction budget.
- ☐ Estimate the input payload. A 3000 byte query cap means you cannot request everything and filter in code.
- ☐ Check any list you planned to pass in against the 100 element cap.
- ☐ Decide the language. Shopify provides templates and client libraries for Rust and JavaScript, and strongly recommends Rust as the most performant choice, to avoid your function failing with large carts.

5. When It Does Not Fit

Three routes, in the order worth trying them.

- ☐ **Move the expensive part out.** Precompute eligibility or tiers into metafields, and let the Function read a value and apply it rather than working it out.
- ☐ **Change the language.** Rust, per Shopify's own recommendation for large carts.
- ☐ **Change the layer.** If the work has to run on a schedule, it is not a Function at all.

6. Before You Sign Off A Build

- ☐ Which of the nine APIs, named explicitly.
- ☐ Which API version it is built against. Shopify releases a new one every three months at the start of the quarter, and each stable version is supported for a minimum of 12 months.
- ☐ Who moves it to the next version, and when.
- ☐ What the largest cart tested was, in line items.
- ☐ What happens when the limits are hit. A 1 kB log allowance means you will not debug this by logging your way through it in production.
- ☐ Whether any unstable API is in the design, and what the fallback is.

What replaced Scripts. As of 30 June 2026, Shopify Scripts has been deprecated. Any Scripts still published on a store have been deactivated and no longer work. Shopify's instruction is to transition to Shopify Functions to recreate those customisations. If a rule is missing and nobody changed anything, that date is the first thing to check.

7. Sources

1. Function APIs reference, version 2026-07
shopify.dev
2. about Shopify Functions
shopify.dev
3. API versioning
shopify.dev
4. transitioning from Shopify Scripts to Shopify Functions
help.shopify.com
5. shopify.dev changelog, introducing checkout extensibility

All checked 1 August 2026.

Free Shopify Store Audit

If you have a rule and cannot place it, the form asks for your store URL and a note on what is eating the time. The Shopify store audit costs nothing.

edm-uk.com/#form-start