

Large scale LTL rating, a case study

Port TMS helps shippers of all sizes streamline their transportation process. Below, we discuss a recent success Port TMS had with a large shipper based out of the United States.

The Background: This shipper is based out of the U.S. with a centrally located Headquarters and 10 distribution centers throughout the US. The shipper has negotiated pricing agreements with 25 different LTL trucking companies, with unique pricing for each shipping location. The shipper uses Oracle to manage inventory, and Ship Console to help with rating for Small Package and LTL. This shipper has approximately 1,000 shipments per day between all modes.

The Process: This shipper begins “batch rating” for that day’s shipments at approximately 1:00 AM, rating approximately 1,000 shipments between 1:00 – 3:00 AM, so when the staff arrives for the day the most cost-efficient carrier has already been selected for each shipment. When it comes time to ship that morning/afternoon, the staff enters in the detailed shipping and receiving info, “books” the shipment, prints off the Bill of Lading, and readies the freight for pickup.

The Problem: Several times per month the technology the shipper relied on for their early morning batch rating would fail. This would result in a chaotic shipping backlog that would take days to get caught up.

The Solution: Port TMS integrated with the Oracle/Shipconsole system to provide an LTL rating engine with 99.99% “up time” to accommodate the 25 different LTL Carrier pricing agreements. Port TMS provides an LTL pricing tool to be able to set up the desired carrier selection for each distribution center to further optimize the operation. Additionally, while all outbound shipments are created via the Oracle/Shipconsole integration, all inbound return shipments are created via Port’s own user interface. The duties Port TMS automates for each shipment are BOL creation, carrier dispatch (via API or email), tracking/tracing, 210 invoice retrieval, and an audit tool to review billing discrepancies.

This shipper also utilizes Port TMS extensively for Operational and Financial reporting purposes. The Operational reports track Carrier On-Time Performance, Costs of Accessorials, and Missed Opportunities to highlight a few. The Financial reports include weekly and monthly billing reports that include Carrier name, shipping/receiving info, freight details, and General Ledger detail that was specific to the shipping or receiving location. By providing an LTL rating tool, LTL pricing tool, and robust reporting tool, Port TMS was able to consolidate 3 providers the shipper had been using to just one single solution.