

With LeanInbound™, transportation departments can:

- Create collaborative relationships with carriers, suppliers and internal stakeholders with complete visibility into the inbound process
- Reduce freight costs by consolidating inbound shipments within the lanes at the same time
- Optimize efficiency of inbound support staff; customer service, dock managers, stocking, etc.
- Control inventory levels through visibility into supplier and carrier load scheduling
- Improve accuracy of inventory reporting, improving overall materials and enterprise resource planning for the company
- Eliminate variance to improve on-time dependability
- Track, measure and manage supplier and carrier performance
- Reduce loading dock and bay space by using fewer trucks and loads
- Optimize the overall transportation plan to reduce inventory and out-of-stocks with less safety stock

INBOUND MANAGEMENT



Challenge

Most companies implement solutions to manage outbound shipments in a manner that is efficient and cost-effective. Inbound shipments however remain a challenge to many companies due to the lack of visibility and control over the multiple carriers and suppliers required to supply products to retailers and manufacturers. Multiple locations (stores, plants and distribution centers) add to the complexity of inbound order management, making it difficult for transportation professionals to control costs as orders are placed from one location, combined at another and shipped to additional, different locations.

Companies that rely on multiple carriers to bring product from multiple vendors or locations are at risk of spending too much on inbound freight. The lack of visibility into the carriers' schedules and availability forces companies to order inbound shipments without enough information to make an educated decision on routing and loads. Organizations are very likely to miss a potentially more efficient route and loading process, costing more in freight than necessary.

Lack of control over shipments can also cause inventory issues due to delays and confusion upon receipt from various shippers at different times. Delays in turn affect the entire supply chain and enterprise resource plan for the company. Without a clear understanding of what inbound transportation is costing a company, the real cost of goods sold is not accurately reflected by finance. The cost of an unmanaged inbound shipment process is an issue not only felt by the transportation department but by the entire company.

Solution

LeanInbound™ allows companies to take control of the inbound process from purchase order creation through proof-of-delivery. LeanInbound, a collaborative SaaS based solution, enables suppliers, carriers and receiving companies' staff to access and edit all activities pertinent to an inbound shipment. From customer service to operations, all company stakeholders are able to play an active role in managing inbound shipments.

By requiring suppliers to confirm basic information about the shipment (shipment availability date, ship-from location(s), content), companies using LeanInbound™ minimize freight costs by consolidating inbound shipments using the same trucking lane, moving at the same time. LeanInbound gives suppliers visibility to carrier tender and pick-up information for freight that the shipper is managing.



“LeanInbound™ enables greater visibility of cross-docking and inbound shipping processes which help us better leverage our assets – fleet, warehouse and distribution centers. Across the logistics network, we gain better control of inbound processes and access solid information for better planning that reduces inventory levels throughout our network.”

Director of Supply Chain,
Ace Hardware

Results

Companies that implement LeadInbound manage the inbound process as tightly and efficiently as outbound. From supplier or vendor, to carrier, to loading dock and into inventory, LeadInbound assists companies at all points of the inbound process by providing clear visibility into partners' activities. Transportation professionals make better shipping consolidation and schedule decisions when all of the pertinent data is provided in clear, user-friendly reports and views. On average, companies using LeanInbound save 3-5% of inbound freight charges alone.

Companies utilizing LeanInbound know the true costs of goods in inventory and cost of transportation as well as improve service by having more accurate inventory information available for customer service. And the supplier “scorecard” helps transportation professionals make better purchasing decisions based on past performance. As a part of LeanLogistics' LeanTMS®, LeanInbound makes inbound shipment processes easier to manage while reducing freight costs.

Features

- Shipper purchase order integration
- Supplier purchase order management including blanket purchase orders, back orders, releases, manifest and placard generation/creation
- Supplier portal for real-time information upload and editing
- Two-way visibility for shippers and suppliers
- LeanAdvisor functionality and event notifications
- Reporting on open shipments
- Freight cost allocation options
- Supplier scorecard and vendor performance reporting