



Sendflex Pack-and-Ship Solution Helps Ennis Fabrics Save Time & Money

Ennis Fabrics manufactures and markets a wide range of commercial fabrics, focusing on the marine, awning and industrial, and home décor markets.

As their B2C volumes grew, and their portfolio of carrier services expanded, Ennis management realized that they needed to replace “tribal knowledge” and rules of thumb with automated quoting, packing, and shipping decision-making and execution controls. Business rules within their current TMS solution were difficult, disruptive, and expensive to change. They lacked the ability to cartonize, accurately quote, configure flexible LTL and parcel rate markups, and generate customer tracking notifications.

After looking at various alternatives, Ennis selected Sendflex, a next generation parcel TMS platform, integrated with Paccurate’s cartonization engine, to optimize their quoting, packing, and shipping operations. Not only could Sendflex handle a wide range of US and Canadian parcel and LTL carriers, but its no-code approach to configuring packing, shipping, and markup rules provides Ennis logistics managers with the control they need to address day-to-day fulfillment challenges.



COMPANY OVERVIEW

Ennis Fabrics ships over 3,000 SKUs of different sizes and lengths to businesses throughout North America from 3 DCs via parcel and LTL carriers.



CRITICAL ISSUES

- Inability to automate optimized carrier service decisions
- Inconsistent packing disciplines and ineffective cube utilization
- Packing difficulties around bulky foam and fabric products
- Inflexible rate markups
- No automated customer shipment status communications
- Inability to simulate shipping cost impact models.



Change is a constant in our business. Sendflex and Paccurate are the perfect fit for a growing business like ours that needs to be responsive to customer and market requirements. With Sendflex we can configure complex business rules in minutes which used to take weeks to accomplish. We've conquered complexity.

VP of Logistics
Ennis Fabrics

Sendflex parcel TMS is designed to solve the complexities that have crept into the parcel industry as businesses decentralize their fulfillment centers and diversify their carrier networks. At its core, Sendflex is powered by a high-speed engine that can process over 20k optimization instructions and rates per second, opening the door to powerful planning and simulation capabilities.

Sendflex makes it easy for non-programmers to use no-code wizards to configure complex packing, routing, and other logistic automation instructions. Sendflex integrates with Paccurate's cartonization API, applying instructions to determine the most transportation cost-effective way to pack, palletize, and ship orders.

Sendflex and Paccurate Reduce Shipping and Labor Costs While Optimizing Cube Utilization Control

Sendflex integrates with Ennis' Sage order management system and sends user-defined packing instructions and line-item SKU detail to Paccurate to determine carton (or roll) sizes and weights for each order. Sendflex uses the cartonization data to apply routing instructions and identify exceptions, then rates and ranks all the carriers that qualify. Sendflex makes markup adjustments or applies customer preference instructions defined by Ennis. Quoting, packing, palletization, and shipping results for UPS, FedEx, Purolator, Loomis, Midland, Day and Ross, Vitran, Pitt Ohio, and Old Dominion, are returned to Sage. Tracking data is sent to Ennis customers.

Sendflex Shifts Business Rule Controls from IT to Logistics Managers

With no-code, configurable instructions, Ennis logistics managers don't need to engage expensive IT resources to get the optimization results they want at a very granular level. For example, Ennis managers can define rate markups at both the base and the accessorial level. Weight breaks can be fine-tuned by customer or workflow. Once difficult foam and fabric rolling rules can be adjusted by SKU. In minutes, not weeks.

In addition to the shipping costs savings, Ennis efficiency has increased dramatically. They can process more shipments in a shorter amount of time. On the very first go-live day, Ennis' warehouse manager remarked, "This is the first time I've had time to do my cycle counting during a regular workday".

KEY BENEFITS:

- Reduced labor costs, training time
- Improved shipping costs control, accuracy
- Maximize available cube utilization
- Accommodate customer preferences
- Reduced IT and programming costs
- Increased flexibility, agility



Scalable, Microservices Architecture Enables Ennis Expansions

Sendflex is a cloud-native platform that automatically scales to meet high-performance processing requirements.

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TECHNOLOGY

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