

It's Time to Expect More from a TMS

Transportation Management Systems are a dime a dozen these days, so what qualities make one stand out above the rest? With the array of options that exist today, you have the power to be selective. If you keep a few key elements in mind, you will soon realize not all systems are created equal.

Independence: Gone are the days of obligatory usage of a TMS provided by one of your transportation vendors. While many vendors will offer their systems for free, don't feel pressured to take the bait! Keep in mind that you are likely not your vendor's sole client, so all your shipping data resides with a company that also houses competitor data. What if you decide not to move freight with that vendor any longer? It's best to consider an independent TMS provider and remove any potential conflicts of interest. You are then in control of your own data regardless of who you use to handle your freight.

Qualified Customer Service: An average TMS provider employs a 24/7 customer service team. An exceptional provider operates with a team of seasoned professionals who know about the *business*, not just the software. There is no question that the routing decisions made are what is best for your thriving business. They know what it's like to be in the shipping chair from first-hand experience.

Synchronization: An exceptional TMS can utilize other modules such as order management and inventory management to connect your entire supply chain. An exceptional TMS can also synchronize with your existing platforms to enable you to keep your current software.

System Features: An average TMS handles basic shipping, booking, invoicing and reporting. However, an exceptional TMS should be robust. There are a few key subtasks that should be expected in each of these areas.

Shipping: A robust TMS can handle anything from small parcel to LTL, Truckload, Rail and International shipments. It's also important to understand what kind of pre-population features and other custom settings are available to save order entry time, such as custom shipment templates.

Booking: An exceptional TMS can integrate with your pool of carriers for booking ease. Finding one that is fully integrated with FedEx and UPS is a must. You should be able to rate shop, track and obtain appropriate shipping documents and labels for each carrier of your choosing.

Invoicing: Many systems will say they can handle invoices, but how? An average TMS will be able to import carrier invoices via various methods. An exceptional one will be able to audit those invoices by matching them to the original shipment quote that was generated in the system. An additional feature would allow customization of necessary audit rules.

Reporting: An average TMS will have a standard dashboard with decent-looking visuals and stock reporting data. An exceptional TMS understands that your analytical needs are ever-changing and offers custom reporting complete with the ability to pull master data from the system to slice and dice how you choose.

Look no further! The answer to your TMS needs is LoadStar, a robust system powered by CloudLogix LLC. Contact CloudLogix today for a demo!

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