

Clipper Exxpress Automates Accounts Payable with TRANSFLO Document Management and Realizes Annual Savings of \$250,000 to \$300,000

THE CHALLENGE

In 2001, Clipper realized it needed a document imaging system.

“We were heavily into LTL freight back then,” recalled Robert Maro, Vice President, Information Technology. “It was very paper intensive.” All their paperwork arrived by mail.

“Somebody had to sit and sort it. Somebody had to process it. Somebody had to verify that the amount on the invoice matched the amount in the system and stamp it approved. There was paper shuffling all over the place. Mary had her stack of invoices. Suzy had her stack of invoices. It took people and time to process it all,” Robert said.

Clipper was beginning to move into a network environment and had invested significant capital to create a LAN (Local Area Network) within their organization. As part of that investment they determined they needed to get an imaging system.

THE SOLUTION

Clipper launched an extensive search for the right vendor. “We looked at 8 to 10 software products. We went on several on-site visits. Pegasus took us to a couple of their customers in the Midwest as did a couple of other vendors,” Bob recalled.

Clipper narrowed the field to three imaging vendors. According to Bob, they selected Pegasus TransTech at least in part because the company was focusing on transportation. At the time, most other imaging companies were serving a variety of industries.

“Pegasus TransTech said their mission was to service transportation companies,” Bob recalled. “That was important.”

Once TRANSFLO was in place, all incoming documents were routed to the system. “Paper didn’t go anyplace else,” he said.

Pegasus TransTech also helped Clipper develop an indexing process. When they received an invoice from a carrier, TRANSFLO Express Indexing would identify the document and prompt the clerk to enter information like the vendor number, the amount, and the date. Clipper developed its own software program which took that information and matched it with the rates in the system for a particular carrier.

Now when a carrier submits an invoice, it goes to imaging and it gets indexed. The information is uploaded to the financial system. The financial system reviews the invoice the carrier submitted and matches it up with the original rate set up for that load or shipment. If it matches, and is accepted the system then automatically sets up a voucher, and prints a check at the appropriate time. There is an exception process if the invoice amount and original shipment rate don’t match and it is flagged in the system.

THE OUTCOME

Clipper was able to eliminate a time-consuming process, that involved many people. Bob outlined the paper trail, “Mary’s got the piece of paper. She makes the match. She stamps it. She sends it to finance. Finance enters it in as a voucher, processes it, and gets it paid”.

With TRANSFLO put into operation, that tedious process went away. Clipper built a workflow process that handles all of the carrier invoices. This helped them gain great efficiency.

TRANSFLO worked. It was obvious in Clipper’s accounts payable department. Prior to TRANSFLO they had 10 to 12 people in the department, now they are down to four. That translated into savings of \$250,000 to \$300,000 per year for Clipper Exxpress.



About Clipper Exxpress

Clipper Exxpress, a transportation provider since 1938, is a major 3rd party logistics company located in the Chicago suburb of Woodridge, Ill., and part of the Wheels Group of Mississauga, Ontario. The company does some LTL, but moves mostly truckloads by rail and highway. The company is non-asset based with the exception of approximately 600 owned, refrigerated trailers it uses mostly in rail intermodal service, much of which involves California produce moving to the Midwest and East Coast. Owner operators and other carriers provide power for the highway portions of Clipper’s business. Environmental Protection Agency.

