Improve on-time delivery through automated load tendering, dock scheduling, and shipment tracking

IBM Sterling Transportation Management System – Execution

Benefits
- Lower freight costs by 5% to 10%
- Improve on-time delivery performance
- Connect to over 7,500 carriers and 29,000 suppliers

Related offerings
- Sterling TMS – Planning and Optimization
- Sterling TMS – Freight, Audit, and Pay
- Sterling TMS – Reporting and Analysis

Comprehensive TMS execution capabilities with on demand connectivity

Efficient load tendering can make the difference between on-time deliveries and freight sitting idle on a dock. With IBM® Sterling Transportation Management System (Sterling TMS), you can secure preferred carriers at favorable costs, honor carrier commitments, improve service levels, and avoid the expense of expedited shipments. Available on demand, Sterling TMS connects you to a collaborative network of over 7,500 carriers and 29,000 suppliers and enables you to:

- Automate load tendering
- Increase visibility over shipment activity
- Lower risk through preemptive exception management

Secure capacity quickly and easily

Sterling TMS automates tendering to carriers, either through electronic communications such as EDI or through Web-based carrier portals. Should a carrier reject your offer or fail to respond within the allotted time, Sterling TMS will withdraw the tender and continue with the next carrier in your routing guide. Carrier selection can be based on preferred carrier, volume commitments, carrier ranking, service capabilities or cost. All responses are recorded so that you can track acceptance rates and carrier performance.

Increase visibility and share shipment status

Sterling TMS tracks both inbound and outbound shipments for all modes of transportation, including truck, LTL, air, ocean, rail, intermodal, and parcel. You can share shipment status online with customers, customer service representatives, shippers, suppliers, and 3PLs. This increased visibility means everyone can see:

- Which carrier is covering the order
- Whether a pickup appointment or delivery appointment has been scheduled
- When the carrier is scheduled to deliver
- Departure confirmation for the order
- When the order has been delivered

Sharing shipment status online both increases customer satisfaction and eliminates the cost of managing a constant stream of phone calls and e-mails requesting status.

Preemptive exception management

Event management leads to timely, proactive problem solving. By subscribing to alerts, you will be notified in real time when key events or exceptions occur. You can even be alerted to events that have not yet happened; for example, a shipment that has not yet been tendered or accepted but that is due to be shipped the next day. Users can configure alerts for specific customers or shipments (hot lists) to proactively manage critical shipments or key customers.

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Capability	Description
Collaborative Logistics Network	Connects you to over 7,500 carriers. There are currently 29,000 shippers, vendors, and suppliers on the Sterling TMS network and the number is growing.
Automated load tendering and shipment status update	Tenders loads, provides shipment status and allows carriers to accept or decline requests though EDI or online screens.
Customer portal	Authorizes customers to view the status of their orders within Sterling TMS. Customers can track the process from carrier selection, to appointment scheduling, to shipment delivery.
Vendor portal	Provides an efficient way for suppliers to inform Sterling TMS users when orders are 'ready to ship'. Users can immediately assign carriers and plan inbound shipments.
Tracking	Provides role-based access to shipment status in "view only" mode.
Event management	Allows you to subscribe to a range of alerts for effective exception management
Dock scheduling	Automates dock scheduling through online screens. Both shippers and carriers can create dock appointments. Configures number of dock doors, calendar of availability (hours of operation), shipping or receiving, and type of equipment supported. The module is business rules driven.
Capacity center	Helps shippers locate additional capacity in a specific area leveraging Sterling TMS network, and dynamically creates a distribution list for mass tender.
Dedicated fleet management	Enables shippers to manage execution of both private and dedicated fleets within the system. Define contract terms / Identify candidate shipments / Plan shipment sequences / Rate shipment sequences / Allocate fleet costs to orders / Reconcile carrier freight bills / Voucher carrier payments / Generate rating and savings reports
Real-time dashboard reports	Provides execution-related real-time dashboard screen reports with the ability to drill down on the specific events or information. Highlights areas for corrective action.
SKU search	Enables you to find shipments containing specific line items.

Comprehensive process automation

Other important execution tools that can help you reduce freight costs include:

- **Online Dock Scheduling** – Allows shippers, receivers, and carriers to automate pickup and delivery appointments and dock assignments.
- **Dedicated Fleet Module** – A unique and long-awaited method for shippers and carriers to collectively manage and share continuous move fleets.
- **Capacity Center** – Gives you an edge when searching for additional capacity. Quickly identifies carriers delivering in your area and allows you to issue a mass "request for capacity." Carriers can also post equipment availability to the Carrier Center.

About Sterling Commerce

Sterling Commerce, an IBM® Company, helps organizations worldwide increase business agility in their dynamic business network through innovative solutions for selling and fulfillment and for seamless and secure integration with customers, partners and suppliers. More information can be found at **www.sterlingcommerce.com.**

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