Is Your Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) System Slowing You Down?

PLEX

EDI: Staying Ahead in The Manufacturing Industry

In today's fast-paced world, manufacturers need speed and agility to quickly respond to constant market changes. Having the right tools can mean the difference between being a market leader or a market laggard. To function optimally, manufacturers require tools that ensure real-time data visibility, promote quality, enable production control, and support continuity across the business.

To be competitive, manufacturers must go digital. Many manufacturers have already made the switch from error-prone, paper-based processes to Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) for facilitating transactions. In some industries, like automotive manufacturing, EDI is actually required by OEMs and tier-1 suppliers. Failure to comply with this requirement means getting locked out of the competitive landscape.

But beyond compliance requirements, manufacturers who don't transition to EDI stand to miss out on significant benefits, such as:

+61%

Up to 61% speed increase in business cycles

+40%

Up to 40% improvement in data quality and delivery

+20%

Up to 20% faster order-to-cash cycles

Given these statistics, it's no wonder so many manufacturers have already opted to embrace EDI.

Not All EDI Systems Are Created Equal

While EDI has helped manufacturers make significant strides in error reduction and agility, the sad truth is that not all EDI systems deliver what they promise. For starters, many EDI systems are difficult to maintain and require customizations that cost businesses significant time and money. Some EDI systems require regular maintenance and don't integrate (or don't integrate well) with ERP and other systems, creating burdensome complexities. Lack of automation and real-time communication are also common shortcomings.

In the end, many EDI systems are rigid when it comes to adapting to volume shifts or change management, making it challenging to scale business up or down. In a marketplace as dynamic as manufacturing, this is a problem.

To really remain cutting-edge, competitive, and responsive, manufacturers must have reliable EDI to:

Automate processes and notifications to reduce man hours and eliminate error-prone, manual processes

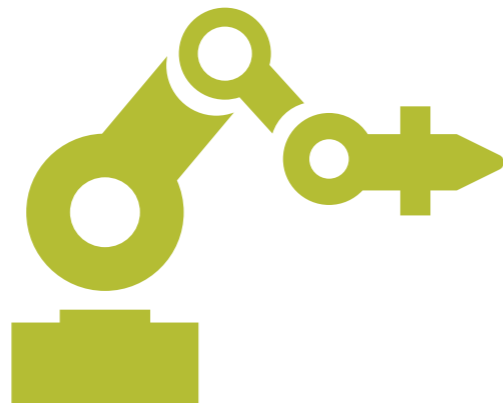Support real-time data integration and communication

Be adaptable, versatile, scalable, and complete

Plex EDI Delivers, So You Can Deliver On Time

The Plex Manufacturing Cloud is designed to meet the needs of the modern manufacturer. With fully-integrated, cloud-based EDI, Plex natively supports customer and supplier collaboration for business transactions - including orders, releases, and shipping. Outfitted with automated, real-time document exchange, Plex helps manufacturers automate the error-prone, manual processes that can be so costly and detrimental to the business.

Plex EDI also offers a vast library of trading partners across industries, networks, and countries, letting users easily and confidently find business collaboration solutions that are the best fit. As a cloud-based solution, Plex is always current with EDI industry changes, so manufacturers can focus on improving their business outcomes instead of spending time on EDI technology changes. Finally, Plex EDI lets users add trading partners and document types, supporting business scalability as trading-partner ecosystems grow.

But don't take our word for it. Take a look at how a customer in the real world is applying the Plex Manufacturing Cloud and EDI.

Plex in Action: Champion Plastics

CHAMPION PLASTICS
MANUFACTURER OF POLYETHYLENE BAGS AND FILMS

Challenge

Plastics manufacturer Champion Plastics had just landed a large deal with Harley-Davidson. To ensure success for the contract, Champion Plastics began investigating EDI solutions. In entering its search, Champion Plastics faced two challenges:

- Instead of generating their own part numbers, they used customer part numbers, so they needed a system to accommodate this nuance
- They had multiple systems for each area of the business, but they needed one system that integrated data from across the entire business

Solution

After examining solutions, Champion Plastics decided to go with the Plex Manufacturing Cloud and Plex EDI based on how integrated the Plex solution was.

Results

With Plex, Champion Plastics has seen significant improvements in:

Time Savings

Reduced its paperwork by more than 50 percent, translating to a 33 percent savings in manpower at the manufacturing level.

Inventory Reduction

Reduced its inventory by nearly 30 percent while still meeting customer demands.

Quality

Prior to Plex, Champion would occasionally ship the wrong box to the wrong customer. With Plex, shipping the wrong parts is nearly impossible.

"We're a quick turnaround company, and we have to be flexible and aggressive. We found that Plex is a very time-efficient system. Preparing shipping documents, ASNs, creating purchase orders, and more are only a click away with Plex EDI."

We live in a manufacturing landscape where agility, adaptability, and versatility are everything. When the market shifts suddenly, when prices change quickly, when an opportunity arises unexpectedly, we need to be equipped with tools that allow us to stay responsive while maintaining the high quality our customers demand.

The Plex Manufacturing Cloud and Plex EDI enable paperless communication with trading partners in just-in-time (JIT) manufacturing environments. With Plex, manufacturers can easily stay in compliance with standards from trading partners, automate real-time document exchange into business processes, and improve scalability to accommodate growing partner ecosystems and respond quickly to customer needs and changes in the market.

**Is your business ready to thrive?
Maybe it's time for Plex EDI.**

For more information, please visit Plex.com.