

VIKING Life-Saving Equipment A/S, Esbjerg, Denmark

VIKING Saves Time With Shipping Module

 Our turnover has increased with almost 10 pct. but we manage the growth with the same number of employees, and at the same time, we have reduced overtime.

Tina Isen, Global Shipping Manager, VIKING

Challenge

Every year, VIKING handles up to 19,000 packages and deliveries of various size for their customers. An increase in turnover meant more manual entries of data from the ERP system into the IT systems of the transporters.

Solution

VIKING implemented it.x-press from itelligence and got an almost fully automated transfer of data directly from SAP to UPS, Fedex and Danish Freighters.

Benefits

VIKING handles the increased turnover with the same manpower in the shipping function. The greatest benefits have been fewer errors and time saved on manual entries.

About VIKING

VIKING is a global leader in safety equipment and services to the maritime market and the off-shore industry. The products are fabricated in Denmark, Norway, Bulgaria and Thailand and are distributed via a global network of 37 foreign subsidiaries in 71 locations in 27 countries.

VIKING delivers safety equipment all over the world. Every week, the company ships evacuation systems, life rafts, life jackets, suits, spare parts and much more to its clients all over the world. It amounts to around 19,000 deliveries a year, and VIKING uses both UPS, Fedex and Danish Freighters. For the larger and more complex deliveries, transporters like Blue Water, Neptun and Damco are employed.



10%
Increase in Volume



1,000

Hours Saved

Before the company had to get all the information from the SAP system and eight employees in the shipping department entered the data manually into the transporters IT systems. Now the data transfer to UPS, Fedex and Danish Freighters is almost fully automated.

“Our turnover has increased with almost 10 pct. but we manage the growth with the same number of employees and at the same time we have reduced overtime” says Tina Isen who is Global Shipping Manager in the Danish company with about 2,000 employees. “We don’t have to do the manual entries of data like address, size, weight, length and so on anymore, because the data is transferred automatically from our ERP solution in SAP directly to transporters. The only thing we need to specify is what service we want for the delivery in question. The consequences have been that we save a lot of time and the number of errors has decreased”, says the leader of the Shipping Department.

So far, VIKING has used it.x-press on around 200 of 375 weekly deliveries. This is valid for all deliveries with UPS, Fedex and Danish Freighters, and the yearly number is about 10,000 shippings. VIKING is working towards automating the data transfer on the larger and more complex deliveries over time.

5 Minutes and 1,000 Hours

The employees in the shipping department are now working in SAP Transport Planning and it.x-press and they need not enter into the transporters’ IT systems. The data transfer happens with EDI through it.x-press.

“We are saving five minutes per delivery this way. We have also moved the label printing so that the label is closer to the package straight away. This saves us a lot of time because we don’t have to

match the label to the package”, says Shipping Assistant Kim Nygård from VIKING.

All in all, VIKING saves around 1,000 hours through the automated transfer of data directly from SAP to the transporters using it.x-press. At the same time, the company sees fewer errors in regard to the deliveries because the manual elements have been reduced. The solution it.x-press was implemented by itelligence which already delivers SAP solution to VIKING.

A Strong Business Case

“Our business case is based on becoming capable of handling the increased turnover with the same number of employees. We have succeeded in this”, says Tina Isen.

The project has been implemented in time and on budget by the Danish consultants from itelligence. The module itself has been developed by itelligence Germany and it has the same look and feel as SAP. In practice, the shipping employees connects the delivery in question with the desired transporter and specifies which type of shipping is wanted. The data transfer then happens automatically.

“We are a lot happier in the department than we used to be. Sometimes, we talk about the old days - not so long ago - when we spent time entering the same data day after day. We do not miss that”, says Tina Isen.

VIKING expects to use it.x-press on all its deliveries in the long run, but this requires improvement on the master data for the larger and more complex deliveries, which are today typically manually booked from SAP Transport Planning.



Company:
VIKING Life-Saving
Equipment A/S

Industry:
Maritime safety equipment

Products:
Evacuation systems for
the maritime and off-shore
industry, life rafts, life
jackets, safety suits, fire
suits and other safety
equipment

Turnover:
1,891 bill DKK (2015)

Number of employees:
2,000 globally

Headquarters:
Esbjerg, Denmark