THE MOST
ACCURATE, COMPREHENSIVE
AND UP TO DATE
LTL TRANSIT TIMES
AVAILABLE

CarrierConnect®XL

SMC3

THERE IS NO ROOM FOR UNCERTAINTY

If you're responsible for your organization's supply chain efficiency, then you know how important it is to get a clear picture of your freight costs, distribution channels and transport timelines. Supply chain decisions begin and end with highly informed analysis supported by accurate, timely data.

The efficiency of a supply chain can often be predicted by the success of its underlying transportation program. You need the ability to see across carriers and service levels—beyond the transactional level—to get a complete picture.

Enter SMC³ CarrierConnect® XL, the easy way to tap into the most accurate, timely and detailed carrier points of service and transit time information. When integrated with your transportation management technology, CarrierConnect XL adds unparalleled transit and service information for greater transportation efficiency.

THE WELL ORCHESTRATED SUPPLY CHAIN

At a basic level, you can use CarrierConnect XL to manage individual shipment transactions on a day-to-day basis, ensuring carrier routing compliance and making the best choices among your carrier group so that shipments arrive as planned.

However, today's supply chains are highly orchestrated networks designed to match supply to demand. Oftentimes this demand is generated by timed "marketing events" for specific products or promotions, where missed delivery windows can mean production stoppage and lost sales, or conversely, unnecessary expedited costs.

CarrierConnect XL is designed for advanced strategy and analysis in the orchestrated supply chain. As such, it plays an important role in making both strategic and tactical decisions:

• Optimize supply chain operations planning and modeling

• Optimize transportation and inventory management

• Validate or reconfigure your supply chain network

• Streamline processes and risk mitigation

• Improve predictability, reliability and customer service

• Determine which carriers to use for regional vs. national shipments

• Make highly-informed resource selection decisions to get the best cost at the right time

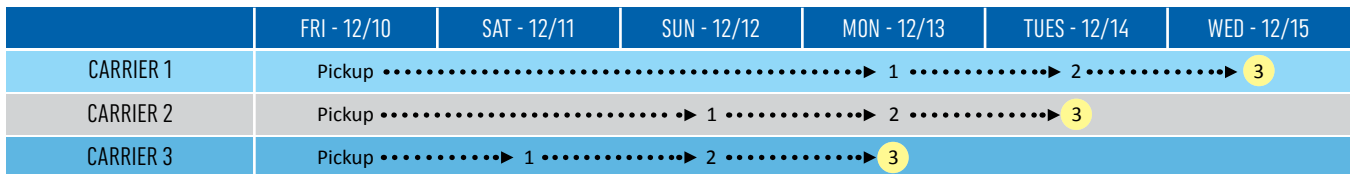## PLAN YOUR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM WISELY

A comprehensive LTL service and transit information solution driven by an intelligent technology system, CarrierConnect XL goes far beyond the corporate routing guide to process carrier information down to the service level. This pertinent information is collected directly from—and continually updated by—carriers and other transportation industry data sources:

• Make the most accurate routing decisions using dynamically updated carrier information that reflects real-world operations

• Compare the full portfolio of services from the industry's leading national, super-regional and regional LTL carriers

• Identify operational capabilities, including points of service and transit times and terminal-to-terminal networks

• Eliminate transit time and delivery date ambiguity with calendar date or number of days modeling capability

• Streamline carrier communications with terminal level contact details

• Easily audit freight with historical data support for three rolling years

• National and cross-border holidays calculated into carrier transit times

VARIANCE OF THREE-DAY SERVICE BY CARRIERS' OPERATION SCHEDULES

Many shippers believe that LTL transportation is a "commodity" and what takes one carrier three days' transit will be the same for any other. Here is an example of transit day variability across three LTL carriers based on their individual operational patterns. Providing visibility to carrier service divergence is one way CarrierConnect XL delivers the most accurate, comprehensive and up to date LTL transit times available.

Figure 1: Carrier 1 counts the weekend as 0 days. Carrier 2 counts the weekend as 1 day. Carrier 3 counts the weekend as 2 days.

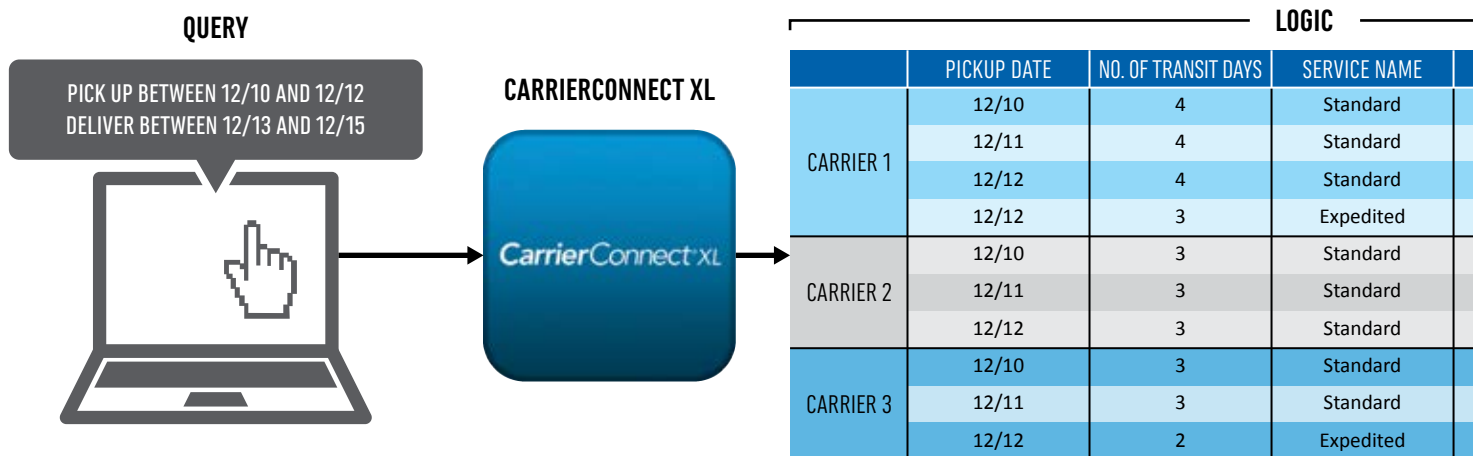|	FRI - 12/10	SAT - 12/11	SUN - 12/12	MON - 12/13	TUES - 12/14	WED - 12/15
CARRIER 1	Pickup •••► 1 ••••••••••••► 2 ••••••••••••► 3
CARRIER 2	Pickup ••••••••••••••••••••••••••••• •► 1 ••••••••••••► 2 •••••••••••► 3
CARRIER 3	Pickup •••••••••► 1 ••••••••••••► 2 ••••••••••••► 3

PICK-UP & DELIVERY WINDOWS MODELING

When shippers or 3PLs require that freight be picked up and delivered within a specific time frame, CarrierConnect XL provides the ability to determine which carriers provide services that meet those time windows.

This is especially critical for customers such as manufacturers and retailers who must hit target dates to have merchandise on the shelves for promotions, or to avoid storage issues.

Figure 2: CarrierConnect XL calculates which carriers have services that can meet the required pickup and delivery windows.

QUERY

PICK UP BETWEEN 12/10 AND 12/12
DELIVER BETWEEN 12/13 AND 12/15

CARRIERCONNECT XL

CarrierConnect XL

LOGIC

	PICKUP DATE	NO. OF TRANSIT DAYS	SERVICE NAME
CARRIER 1	12/10	4	Standard
	12/11	4	Standard
	12/12	4	Standard
	12/12	3	Expedited
CARRIER 2	12/10	3	Standard
	12/11	3	Standard
	12/12	3	Standard
CARRIER 3	12/10	3	Standard
	12/11	3	Standard
	12/12	2	Expedited

MARKED COST SAVINGS

Nothing costs more than acting on inaccurate or incomplete information, for example delivering a seasonal item past its display date or using a carrier who charges more because you're going outside its regional delivery system. With CarrierConnect XL you are assured the most up-to-date transit information. Differentials between stated and actual transit times are easily apparent because CarrierConnect XL data is dynamically updated and provided by the carriers themselves. You can easily spot the shipping scenarios that comply with your time requirements:

• Instantly calculate and recalculate "what-if" shipping lane and timeline scenarios

• Choose service levels on a shipment-by-shipment basis for customized product delivery

• Minimize transportation errors and manage risk

• Improve cash flow and working capital, instead of under-buying or over-buying service

• Manage transportation with calendar day accuracy

PREDICTABILITY & RELIABILITY

Today's transportation professionals are increasingly working within scenarios that reward speed to market. If a carrier's transit time schedule or route abruptly changes due to a weather event or another extenuating circumstance, CarrierConnect XL will enable you to quickly view alternate arrangements based upon direct-from-carrier updates.

Furthermore, you can be certain that each carrier you partner with is the correct carrier for the designated shipping lane, because their service information will be readily visible.

The predictable and reliable data driven by CarrierConnect XL makes speed-to-market less of a factor and costs more controllable. The tool also aides in aligning inventory carrying costs with product availability requirements.

DELIVERY DATE	MEETS REQUIREMENTS
12/16	No
12/16	No
12/16	No
12/15	Yes
12/15	Yes
12/15	Yes
12/16	No
12/13	Yes
12/14	Yes
12/15	Yes

RESPONSE

	PICKUP DATE	NO. OF TRANSIT DAYS	SERVICE NAME	DELIVERY DATE	MEETS REQUIREMENTS
CARRIER 1	12/12	3	Expedited	12/15	Yes
CARRIER 2	12/10	3	Standard	12/15	Yes
	12/11	3	Standard	12/15	Yes
CARRIER 3	12/10	3	Standard	12/13	Yes
	12/11	3	Standard	12/14	Yes
	12/12	2	Expedited	12/15	Yes

STREAMLINED PROCESSES & RISK MITIGATION

Today's supply chains are complex, yet every organization's internal stakeholders, as well as its external partners, share common goals and objectives when it comes to supply chain consistency and predictability. CarrierConnect XL, combined with RateWare XL, provides input to making routing and pricing determinations simple for you and your supply chain partners (DC managers, manufacturing service providers and suppliers, retail affiliates, etc). Additionally, the accessibility of fundamental, actionable information provided by CarrierConnect XL enables you to better connect supply with demand for transportation agility.

BETTER CARRIER PARTNERSHIPS

SMC³ makes it easy for you to connect with carriers on an operational level. That's because we've made it simple for national, super-regional and regional carriers to connect with and make delay-free updates to the CarrierConnect XL solution. Seamless XL SaaS (Software as a Service) technology interfaces work behind the scenes to provide the latest information directly from the carriers to you. Without the tool certain factors could affect your shipment getting to its destination when expected and needed:

• New terminal service areas

• Expanded service area ranges

• Scheduled delivery windows

• National and cross-border holidays calculated into transit times

• Reconfigured line-haul routes

• New service definitions

• Operational changes

This means that your carrier partnerships are increasingly win-win, because your shipments are planned using alignments between your carriers' business models and your own. Plus, this actionable data works within your internal analysis processes to improve transportation performance and promote supply chain continuity.

MAINTAIN OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY WITHOUT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY HASSLES

Having the ability to streamline and simplify the movement of goods requires ultimate flexibility in technology architectures, IT systems and integration capabilities. The security and power behind the SMC³ IT infrastructure provides our customers with a hosted solution to their information sharing and processing needs. Here's how you benefit from SMC³ hosted product delivery:

- No hardware and software hassles or compatibility issues

- Straightforward Web Services integration to your systems

- Mission critical support and 24/7 information security

- Near real-time information updates

- Complex, real-time what-if scenario capabilities

Web technology is rapidly becoming the backbone of the global supply chain. As the volume of applications and information moving through web channels continues to increase, security and reliability become decisive requirements. SMC³ runs its hosted applications on a support and security network that makes use of redundant server systems. Your hosted SMC³ solution will run behind a highly secured network, protecting your data and queries through multiple layers of firewalls, authorization and authentication protocols.

WHY SMC³?

SMC³ is the leading LTL data and solutions provider to the freight transportation community. More than 5,000 North American shippers, carriers, logistics service providers (LSPs), technology providers, and freight-payment companies rely on our sophisticated LTL base rates, content, and expert procurement and planning tools to optimize business decisions, achieve higher return on their transportation investment, and meet the dynamic demands of the market.

Learn how you can rely on SMC³ for high-quality data, products, customer service and Hosted Technology Solutions for extremely accurate and up-to-date LTL content. Contact SMC³ today at 1.800.845.8090 or email sales@smc3.com for more information.

More Great SMC³ Supply Chain Technology Solutions:

CzarLite Refined over 25 years, SMC³ CzarLite® is used routinely throughout North America as the basis for thousands of successful pricing agreements that represent several billion dollars in annual managed transportation spending.

Bid$ense The Web-based SMC³ Bid$ense® bid package solution facilitates and manages a collaborative bid process between shippers and carriers who use CzarLite and other base rates.

RateWare XL The SMC³ solution for managing shipment rating and pricing, RateWare® is used by hundreds of transportation and technology professionals every day to apply intelligent rating processes within their supply chains.

⊽SMC³

Contact SMC³ today at 1.800.845.8090 or email
sales@smc3.com for more information.