



8 Imperatives for Supply Chain Excellence in a Time of Chaos



A Carrier Company

The global supply chain industry is rapidly changing, especially as the world manages to reinvent itself during a worldwide pandemic. There are massive shifts—people’s buying patterns have changed, traditional distribution and shipping channels have been disrupted, and new technologies and innovations are evolving in expected and unexpected ways. Simply put, there is chaos across worldwide supply chains in every sector—and this is particularly true when it comes to temperature-sensitive cargo as it travels from point of origin to its final destination.

The players in today’s supply chains must step up and strive for a greater level of excellence than ever before in order to succeed. And the way they can do that is simple—go back to basics and embrace these eight imperatives.

These concepts are not new and you may even have implemented some of them. The time has come, however, to put these basic tenets into practice as if the very life of your business depends on it—because it does.



1 Know exactly WHERE your cargo is—all the time—in real time

Don’t let drivers be your trackers. It doesn’t work, because sometimes your drivers go one way and your cargo goes another. Put real-time GPS trackers directly on your cargo, so you can quickly discover the exact, specific location of your product before it’s compromised or sold to the highest bidder on the black market.

In challenging times, you may think you can cut some corners and get by. However, the reality is that your temperature control must be precise. Use the right packaging, implement the best temperature monitoring sensors in the industry and take corrective action when and where needed.

A simple slip could result in a pharmaceutical that has lost its efficacy and endangered someone’s life. Or in the food industry, one excursion due to lax temperature management could result in a dumpster full of trashed produce.



2 Track everything you can about your shipments

Make sure you track parameters that could affect the quality of your product—such as light, movement, CO₂ and humidity. IoT-based sensors can do all this, and they can do it all in real time, so you’ll know exactly when and where excursions or deviations occur, enabling you to react quickly. Once you are tracking the cargo, you can easily integrate other parameters that may be important to your shipment’s journey: are there shipping details that should convey to ease the receiving process; is traffic delaying arrival; is there a fast-moving weather pattern you prefer to avoid?



4 Hire 3PLs that treat your cargo like their own

All your best supply chain practices could go down the drain quickly if you don’t use third-party logistics (3PL) providers who are reliable and trustworthy. All too often great service level agreements are drawn up in a manner that provides fault-proof protection for your product, only to find out that none of those provisions were adhered to by a 3PL trying to save a few bucks. Using IoT tracking sensors will tell you if the direct single-provider journey you have commissioned has turned into a lengthy multimodal, multi-vendor instead.



3 Don’t skimp on temperature control

Let’s face it, if you are shipping temperature-sensitive products, this is one of the most basic rules. Properly protecting your products as they make their way through the supply chain is simply an entry point to excellence.



5 Gain as much visibility as you can

Visibility is king in the supply chain industry. When you properly track your products, the data you collect and analyze can give you comprehensive insight into the location and condition of your cargo from the moment it leaves its point of origin until it’s delivered to the final destination. This kind of visibility puts you in complete control every single step of the way.



**Drill down and analyze—
and then analyze
some more**

If visibility is king, then deep, high-powered analysis is the queen. Predictive, prescriptive and diagnostic analytics will give you insights that will surprise you, dismay you and ultimately, make you a hero. You can dig down and find root causes for disruptions that you would never have expected—and you can save your company a lot of money by using that knowledge to correct it. Whether it's a 3PL who is underperforming, or a route that continually causes delays, you can uncover the hidden issues and solve them once and for all. And you can alleviate and even eliminate future risks.



**Protect your data always
and forever**

Data provides the keys to the kingdom—and in some industries like life sciences, it must be protected and put in a secure, validated repository. When a regulatory agency comes knocking on your door for an annual audit, you need to ensure you have the data to prove that you did what you said you would. And that you did it in a way that meets all the necessary regulations all along the way.



**Maximize your investment
in all of the above
and optimize**

You've spent a lot of money investing in your in-transit supply chain and your supporting partner network —now is not the time to waste that investment. Use all that you've learned and start a loop of continuous improvement that ultimately results in the most optimized supply chain possible—a supply chain that excels!

ABOUT SENSITECH

Sensitech Inc. is a global leader in delivering supply chain visibility solutions. Our innovative monitoring products and services help to maintain the quality, integrity and security of our customers' valuable products at every step in their journey, all around the world. For 30 years, leading companies in the food, pharmaceutical, industrial, consumer goods and other industries have relied on Sensitech to help protect their products—and their bottom lines.



The excellence described here doesn't take months to achieve. Yet it drives real long-lasting benefits—superior product quality, ongoing cost savings and customers that are loyal and proud to buy from you—that make every step worthwhile.

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