

LESS RESILIENT THAN EXPECTED:

The impact of COVID-19 on intermodal supply chains

The COVID-19 pandemic challenges us in multiple ways – first with the original virus, and later with its new variants.

The extent of the disruptions to our daily life is felt profoundly by many, although some of it is beginning to be regarded as 'new normal'.

However digital transformation has seen significant acceleration during this crisis and is continuing to enable processes in business life on a remote base.

In the logistics industry this is obviously not fully possible in the physical transport and the transshipment of goods and its storage.

However, digital solutions bring more transparency to these processes.

Find out here how it works and why it is a valuable support for your daily work.

What impact does the Corona crisis have on logistics?

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT, ALMOST ESSENTIAL TO ESTABLISH A STRONGER RESILIENCE IN YOUR SUPPLY CHAIN?

A look at the course of the rapidly spreading global crisis and the obstacles it created will help answer this question. In the country of origin, China, the quick spread of COVID-19 resulted in some production stoppages as efforts were made to rapidly contain the novel virus. As a result, certain deliveries were difficult or impossible to realize.

Supply chains were increasingly disrupted, in some cases completely cut. This was accompanied by the paralysis of ports or a lack of air freight capacity in the almost global lockdown in the spring of 2020. Some border closures led to interruptions in shipments and an immense test of patience for the recipients of the goods.

The pandemic has shown us even more clearly how fragilely connected global supply chains truly are - and the insight has shocked many. A weak level of digitalization is still evident among shippers or the transport companies working for them - the result is less resilience in the event of disruptions.

Later, as demand for logistics services increased following the resumption of production in China and other economies, a lack of capacity, particularly in the container business, affected intercontinental supply chains. These challenges, also characterized as catch-up effects, extended into the "peak season." The 4th quarter of a calendar year is generally – and so also in 2020 – one of the busiest phases for the logistics industry due to the consumption-intensive days of the year-end business in North America and Europe. The harsh winter in many regions and its consequences, as well as continued or re-intensified lockdown measures due to the mutation of the virus, continued to severely hamper transportation in the first quarter of 2021, causing delays in the supply chains again.

CORONA AS A CATALYST FOR A TREND

In many cases the Corona crisis only shed increased light on existing failures in supply chain visibility. In this regard, experts from BVL.digital and the Institute for Logistics and Corporate Management at the Technical University of Hamburg conducted a survey of 300 logistics professionals in Germany shortly before the pandemic and published interesting facts about the digitalization backlog that still exists. More than one-third of those questioned do not yet have a digital service offering and even more than half do not have a business line for digital services and goods or a digital business model.

Corona certainly acted as a driving force for some companies, but much of the supply chain remains like a black box for some of the players. After all, there is still a lot of potential to be tapped when it comes to the efficient exchange of data between shipper, the recipient of goods and the contracted carriers. Even in 2021, some companies often do not know where their goods are - albeit the technical requirements already exist. Consequently, transport processes can be more transparent.

How transparency helps to overcome supply chain challenges

Digital solutions not only make everyday life easier in the pandemic, but they also provide significant support in the organization and execution of supply chain management.

To counteract the problem of disrupted supply chains due to weather, as well as traffic jams and border closures that lead to production delays, one thing is crucial first: Getting an overview of the status quo of shipments. Meaningful solutions can only be found with the use of live data on shipment status, information on recurring traffic bottlenecks or precise predictions of the estimated time of arrival (ETA).

SYNFIOO FOLLOWS THIS APPROACH TO MAKE ITS CUSTOMERS' PROCESSES SMARTER

To this end, the most important information is transmitted to customers via the OnTime Navigator platform. **With the help of artificial intelligence and machine learning, possible delays in traffic volume**, for example due to road works or weather phenomena, **are identified on the route from more than 70 sources**. Ideally, these can be bypassed by creating alternative routes. The supply chain visibility solutions offer the opportunity to circumvent an unforeseeable delay and therefore take a more efficient path on a short notice.

With Synfioo's solutions, all supply chain stakeholders can track where a shipment is at any given time and make better, data-driven decisions for its continued progress. In the current crisis, characterized by border closures, sudden failures of scheduled carriers, and a fundamental transformation of supply chain concepts, for example due to the rapidly growing importance of online commerce, **it has become vital to use digital tools to optimize supply chain management**. This will equally benefit vaccine logistics, which will be under special scrutiny in 2021 due to its significance in the fight against the pandemic.



SHIPMENT
TRACKING
in real time and on
one platform



ACCURATE ETA
PREDICTIONS
for the delivery of
goods



IMPROVED
PLANNABILITY
of arrival in a
specific time frame



SMOOTH
FOLLOW-UP
PROCESSES
in warehouse and
production



MORE EFFICIENCY
in transport processes

What are you waiting for?

Get more transparency in your supply chain now.

Have you experienced supply chain delays you did not even know about? Has your production been down because no one knew where the raw materials or components were that you were waiting for?

We will be happy to provide you with more information. We will show you how Synfioo can bring more transparency into your supply chain. Our software is easy to use for all parties involved in a transport and effortlessly integrated into your IT environment. To learn more, please visit our website at <https://synfioo.com> or contact us by phone or e-mail.

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