

License Plate Number (LPN) Labels

Meet Increasing Customer Demand and Efficiencies, and Better Track Your Product from Start to Finish

A practical guide to License Plate Number labeling for warehouse and supply chain operations.

Overview

The average warehouse in the U.S. has dramatically increased in size since the early 2000s. Inventory moves faster through the supply chain, with heavy demands on retailers, and an increasing transition into eCommerce.

All of this translates to increased stress on warehouses and fulfillment centers to manage their inventories with high levels of precision and accuracy. These increasingly large facilities are moving thousands of products and shipments in and out on any given day. The supply chain becomes more complex and warehouse and logistics personnel require the right tools to manage this increasing swell of product moving in and out. One tool that they've grown to rely on even more is License Plate Numbers.



What Are License Plate Numbers (LPNs)?

LPN labels, or License Plate Numbers, use sequential barcode sequences to track product as it moves into and out of the warehouse environment, or throughout the supply chain. These labels can be applied to cartons, bins or pallets, for better tracking.

LPNs can give any organization an immense amount of data relating to operational speed, accuracy of shipments, and the efficiency of their operations. Products become more visible as they come into and leave the warehouse.

LPN labeling can enhance your current warehouse management system or product inventory management system to ensure higher levels of tracking and transparency. When you use high quality LPN label providers, you won't need to worry about duplicate numbers causing confusion within the system.

All LPN labels can further be tracked by scanning the barcode located on the front of the label.



4 x 2 LPN with custom branding

How to Know When You Need to Integrate an LPN System

If it feels like your warehouse or fulfillment center is struggling to keep up with the pace of shipments, it may be time to switch to LPN labeling to improve efficiency. LPN labels will create a more efficient workflow. By scanning a single group label, you gain access to the inventory group.

If it's been difficult to track your assets through the warehouse, LPN labeling can help with that, too. They simplify the tracking process through the warehouse and the entire supply chain. Better visibility will save your employees the time and hassle of needing to look everywhere to locate product.

LPN labeling can also improve the accuracy of warehouse operations. It should reduce errors that happen due to human error while skipping through product or manually entering incorrect data.

An LPN labeling system can save you money by making your processes more efficient and accurate. Human error and a slow process can bog your warehouse down and be a source of lost revenues. When you use an LPN labeling system, you can create an organizational method that is unique to your warehouse or fulfillment center's needs.

The Key License Plate Number Advantage

While LPN labels allow for any type of inventory tracking that suits the organization, a key advantage is grouping inventory. You have the flexibility to provide LPN labels for a variety of product groups including bins, cartons, and trucks.

What this means is that fewer scans are required for accurate inventory management. This results in a more efficient process and time saved.

A simple scan of the LPN label can provide you with key data including:

- Pick, Pack and Ship — order data, order items/SKUs, customer information
- Products contained
- Part numbers and quantity
- Lot number
- Date of manufacture
- Expiration date
- Location



Other Key Benefits with LPN Label Usage

In a time when warehouses and fulfillment centers face increasing demand, LPN labels provide a way to simplify receiving, picking, and shipping. Details on orders can easily be retrieved through barcode scanning.

Ways to maximize operational efficiencies through LPN labeling:

- Speed up the receiving process by entering LPN information in advance of receiving.
- Track containers through the warehouse and maximize space within the facility.
- Minimize data entry requirements through product grouping to reduce human error.
- Monitor your entire warehouse or fulfillment center inventory to detect problems with product and proactively address them.
- Identify popular or fast-moving product to ensure its route through the warehouse is fast and efficient.
- Ensure that products are in the right location along the supply chain.
- Ensure that food, beverage, medical supplies, and pharmaceuticals have not passed expiration dates.
- Track variants, lot numbers, serial numbers, or weight to move pallets more efficiently and eliminate manual data entry.
- More robust data entry and organizational processes allow you to count, build, merge, or separate license plate items in a simplified manner.
- Reduce labeling costs versus the use of an in-house printing system.
- Custom color and size choices make it easier to set up a robust organizational system across various group or product sizes.
- Clear and readable barcodes maintain easy access to critical supply chain information.

LPN Labels in Use Across a Wide Range of Industries

LPN labels enjoy broad use in the supply chain for many different industries because they simplify logistics. Their durability also makes them well suited to a rugged warehouse environment. The amount of information that LPN labels provide access to make them an easy choice within the supply chain.

Below are a few of the industries where LPN labels are a popular choice.

Food & Beverage

Track expiration dates and cold-chain integrity to keep product fresh and compliant.

Medical Supplies

Maintain lot tracking and expiration compliance required by regulatory standards.

Logistics & Distribution

Simplify receiving, pick-pack-ship, and carrier handoffs at scale.

Manufacturing

Track raw materials and finished goods across complex production environments.

Label Durability

Food, beverages, and pharmaceuticals often require extreme cold environments, adding an extra challenge for labels. With grocery delivery on the rise, there is more demand for cold storage warehousing, and maintaining an efficient warehousing environment will remain critical in supporting companies at the front of this industry.

A durable barcode label solution is a critical necessity to support cold storage warehousing environments. Companies may be tempted to use poorly constructed label materials as a cost saving measure, but they may end up paying more when labels curl, crack, or become caked in frost. This can bring the logistics process to a halt.

“Finding the right label material for your cold storage application should be your first priority. There are multiple solutions with varying levels of effectiveness depending on the specifics of your environment.”

We can help you to find a label resistant to moisture and cold so that it will maintain the highest level of readability.

A professional labeling company is your best bet to provide solutions that are specifically designed to withstand rigorous cold temperature demands. Labels can be provided with pressure sensitive papers or films and freezer-grade adhesive to ensure quality results in the coldest of freezers.

Pre-Print vs. In-House Labeling

Companies in a variety of industries may be tempted to complete all their label printing in-house. This can come with risk and hidden costs, especially for companies in temperature-sensitive storage environments. Printer maintenance, supplies, and equipment wear and tear can all add up to high cost.

The alternative is pre-printed LPN labels suited for all environments. This option gives you more flexibility to find the label types better suited to meet your needs and can quickly reduce material and equipment costs while ensuring that your organization is prepared for all labeling needs.

A label supplier will be able to provide added options to customize your labeling system including different colors and sizes. Pre-printed options may also include company logos for additional branding opportunities. You'll also eliminate the risk of creating confusion with duplicate numbers.

Additional benefits for pre-printed labeling:

- Guaranteed number sequences that never repeat and are error free
- Label rolls produced on a press, giving the lowest per-label cost
- Lower total cost of ownership (TCO) — employees do not have to manage, print, or organize label jobs, freeing time for other workflows
- Barcodes are verified on press to ensure correct scanning every time
- Right material and adhesive for the application — freezer, durability, and more

**Fast Re-Ordering**

Professional label companies can efficiently make and store LPN labels, so that when a customer's supply runs out, it can quickly be replenished. All that needs to happen is that they need to be reshipped.

LPN Labels Can Also Be Used to Track Individual Product

When LPN labels are used to track individual product, inventory can be more easily managed. Details such as the vendor that it came from can be easily tracked, so re-stocking becomes a more efficient process. This can help keep billing on time, and ensure that product is correctly stored in reserve or active locations.

LPN Usage and Best Practices

LPN labels can make the supply chain more efficient, but like any tool, it helps to know how to use them. Below are some suggestions to keep product moving more efficiently from the time it is received to the time that it is shipped.

LPN labels sync different items into the same order. For example, an order for five different items would likely have an LPN for each bin or unit that can be scanned. The scan places the item in the order to ensure that it ships complete.

LPN labels cannot be over-applied. They can be used to keep track of entire truckloads worth of product, and they can track individual product. It's a matter of being able to collect the highest amount of useful data to make all processes within the warehouse, fulfillment center, or distribution center more efficient.



LPN labels can be used to provide information on what a product is, and where it is located in a large facility. But in order to make this work, every time a product is moved it should be scanned — when it comes off a truck, when it is put into a storage location, when it is picked, and when it is shipped. These details will keep large organizations more organized.

LPN labels can be used to create aging product reports. This is especially important if you are dealing with food, beverage, or medical product that might have expiration dates. These reports can help you quickly locate product and prioritize shipments.

Sometimes small vendors don't have adequate labeling for their product. The labels may be damaged or non-existent. Assigning LPN labels in these types of situations can save headaches with the vendor and with the customer and help keep you organized.

A Tool for Increased Efficiency

More and more demand is being placed on warehousing, fulfillment, and distribution centers. Strategic use of tools such as LPN labeling can drastically increase the efficiency of the supply chain.

These labels can help you track product from the moment that it enters your facility until the moment that it leaves. Like any tool, the way that you set it up, and the way that you use it will matter when it comes to achieving the desired results.

A professional label supply company can help you with a pre-printed LPN label system customized to your specific situation — including whether you need labels printed with more durable material to withstand cold applications. Color-coded and different size options can also help you create a more robust organizational system.

"If you are ready to create a more efficient logistics system within your facility, outsourcing your LPN printing can provide the results that you are looking for."