

THE GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

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ABSTRACT

While there have been independent examinations of several of the changes that affect the supply chain, to date there has been little in the way of studies that holistically examine the changes facing front line supply chain managers today and the solutions they have implemented to address those changes. Supply chain executives have been interviewed in depth to better understand how manufacturing or distribution network changes, technology implementation, corporate re-structuring and/or increasing customer demands have been addressed in the field. An understanding of the challenges and successes faced by Global 1000 firms as they address these changes should help others in the field to better accomplish supply chain change.

PERCEPTUAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SHIPPERS AND MOTOR CARRIERS REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF CARRIER SELECTION CRITERIA

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ABSTRACT

The primary focus of this study is the identification of significant differences in the assessment of the importance of 36 carrier selection variables by both carriers and shippers. This study is based on the original 1992 investigation. Currently, statistically significant differences resulted between shipper and carrier mean ratings for nine of the thirty-six selection criteria. In the original study, there were significant differences for nineteen of thirty-five selection variables. The rating and ranking discrepancies in this study indicate that shippers and carriers do not classify the importance of some selection variables similarly, but carrier understanding seems to be improving. Carriers must take the forefront by providing leadership and innovation in relation to their selection mixes, rather than keying on past performance and relationships.

COMMON FARE: AN EXAMPLE OF “BLANKET” RATES IN HAWAI’I WATERBORNE TRADE

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ABSTRACT

“Blanket” rate structures apply uniform rates to a geographical region in spite of differences in the costs of carrying the goods. They are generally utilized by carriers to achieve some strategic objective, whether rate simplification, to be more competitive, or to meet some political objectives. While blanket rates are common in land transportation, the Hawai’i waterborne trade offers a unique example of this pricing mechanism. Further, given new and potential competitive factors in this trade, this is a unique case study for those interested in transportation pricing and the economic impacts of changes in the competitive structure in an isolated market.

CARRIER SELECTION CRITERIA: DIFFERENCES AMONG TRUCKLOAD MOTOR CARRIER OFFERINGS

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ABSTRACT

Effective customer service begins with an understanding of the service components customers' view as most important to their operations and business success. Within the transportation industry research has investigated the importance of such criteria at an industry level. This article offers detailed rankings of service criteria priority from a shipper's perspective by comparing criteria across five types of motor carrier offerings including dry van, temperature controlled, intermodal, tank, and flatbed. Results identify the ranked importance of 20 service characteristics, common themes, and distinct differences in the importance of service criteria among the alternative supplier offerings.

DISPATCHING CONTINUOUS MOVES

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ABSTRACT

Continuous Moves (CM) is a term coined by the trucking industry. This paper defines CM=s, classifies them and discusses their economies. A unifying mathematical optimization model for dispatching orders is then presented. The model selects the best way to dispatch each and every order, whether as a part of a CM or not. However, the model does consider all the feasible types of CM=s. Practical aspects associated with implementing CM=s are also discussed.