

AIM Computer Solutions Delivers Robust, Flexible EDI Solution for Automotive Supplier P.J. Wallbank Springs



Highlights

- P.J. Wallbank Springs' explosive growth was straining their existing ERP system. EDI and label onboarding of new customers and locations was costly and difficult.
- AIM Computer Solutions delivered a flexible EDI and bar code solution designed specifically for automotive suppliers.
- P.J. Wallbank Springs' system now validates the bar code label and ASNs on a customer-by-customer basis to meet all OEM and Tier customer requirements.

The Challenge

P.J. Wallbank Springs, an automotive supplier of spring packs housed in transmission clutches, found itself in a bind when onboarding new customers and shipping locations. New customers and shipping locations required EDI mapping and label format changes. Managing and testing these changes was a time consuming process. Further, the costs involved in changing EDI and label formats were outside the maintenance agreement and were charged on an hour-by-hour billable basis.

The company needed a flexible EDI solution designed specifically to respond in a timely manner to these types of changes in the automotive industry and to do so without adding additional unanticipated costs.



About P.J. Wallbank Springs

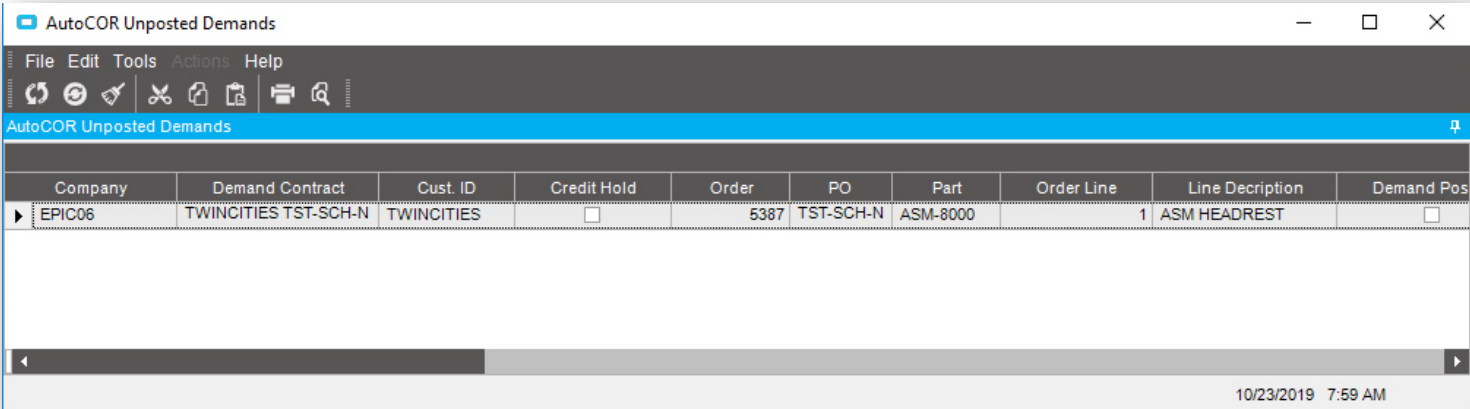
P.J. Wallbank Springs is the global leader in clutch return technology and spring pack design and manufacturing. Built on the family spring business and founded in 1982 in Port Huron, Michigan, the company's goal is to meet the automotive industry's need for spring packs, which are collections of springs in a single assembly that are housed in transmission clutches. The company makes more than 80 varieties of clutch spring products and supplies spring packs to customers all around the world with exports making up more than 50 percent of its sales. The company also designs and makes its own machines to assemble the springs.

P.J. Wallbank Springs is a Tier One and Tier Two supplier to companies in South America, Canada, Mexico and Europe, with more than half of those exports to China. The company has sales offices in Germany and China.

The Solution

AIM Computer Solutions, partnering with Epicor, implemented AIM AutoCOR, its collaborative order requirement solution, which integrates AIM EDI, bar code and order management modules with Epicor ERP to deliver a turnkey solution for automotive suppliers. It is a combined order requirement solution between AIM supply chain management applications and Epicor ERP for automotive production part suppliers. Because it guides suppliers to comply with OEM/Tier One and Two requirements, including IATF 16949:2016 requirements, for EDI, shipping, and bar code labelling, it was the answer the company needed.

In addition, AIM Computer Solutions implemented the AIM Mobility Shipping app, which reads bar code labels and populates shipper information, running on Android-based tablets directly on the shop floor.



The AutoCOR Unposted Demands Dashboard is used to identify orders that have not posted from AutoCOR into Epicor. This allows the user to quickly identify what demands need to be addressed.

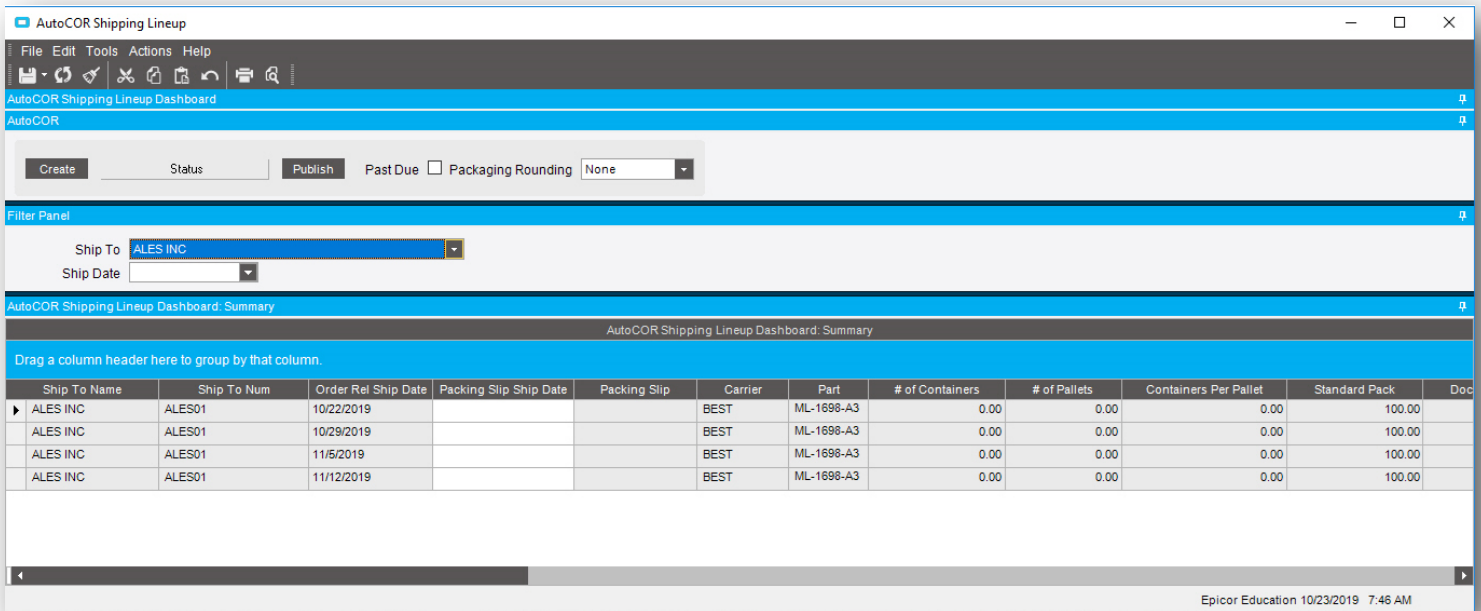
“P.J. Wallbank was constantly challenged to keep up with customer label and EDI changes. We were continuously paying to have label and/or EDI changes rushed into production. With AIM’s vetted label and EDI formats, we no longer worry about last minute changes and software breaking. It just runs and does what it is supposed to do.”

Randy Grewe
IT Manager
P.J. Wallbank Springs

The Results

Now the company uses AIM AutoCOR to process inbound customer EDI requirements and to capture customer specific information used on bar code labels and outbound EDI transactions. It imports automotive demand into the Epicor ERP Demand Management module.

AIM Computer Solutions created dashboards to manage the OEM customer requirements and supplier releases and to create shippers. Bar code labels and ASNs are validated on a customer-by-customer basis to ensure they are meeting customer requirements.



The screenshot displays the AutoCOR Shipping Lineup Dashboard. At the top, there is a menu bar with 'File', 'Edit', 'Tools', 'Actions', and 'Help'. Below the menu is a toolbar with various icons. The dashboard title is 'AutoCOR Shipping Lineup Dashboard'. There are several tabs: 'AutoCOR', 'Create', 'Status', 'Publish', 'Past Due', 'Packaging Rounding', and a dropdown menu set to 'None'. A 'Filter Panel' section includes a 'Ship To' dropdown menu set to 'ALES INC' and a 'Ship Date' dropdown menu. Below the filter panel is a section titled 'AutoCOR Shipping Lineup Dashboard: Summary' with a sub-header 'AutoCOR Shipping Lineup Dashboard: Summary'. A instruction 'Drag a column header here to group by that column.' is present above a table. The table has the following columns: Ship To Name, Ship To Num, Order Rel Ship Date, Packing Slip Ship Date, Packing Slip, Carrier, Part, # of Containers, # of Pallets, Containers Per Pallet, Standard Pack, and Doc. The table contains four rows of data for 'ALES INC' shipments.

Ship To Name	Ship To Num	Order Rel Ship Date	Packing Slip Ship Date	Packing Slip	Carrier	Part	# of Containers	# of Pallets	Containers Per Pallet	Standard Pack	Doc
ALES INC	ALES01	10/22/2019			BEST	ML-1698-A3	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	
ALES INC	ALES01	10/29/2019			BEST	ML-1698-A3	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	
ALES INC	ALES01	11/5/2019			BEST	ML-1698-A3	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	
ALES INC	ALES01	11/12/2019			BEST	ML-1698-A3	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	

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The AutoCOR Shipping Lineup Dashboard can be used by managers to prepare daily shipments by Ship To Location. Shipping clerks or hi-lo drivers can then utilize the AIM Mobility Shipping App to scan bar codes and process shipping paperwork.

The system exports shippers from Epicor ERP to AutoCOR to complete the shipment processing, which includes outbound EDI, shipping paperwork and bar code labeling.

As a part of the Epicor implementation, AIM Computer Solutions implemented its AutoCOR solution in about 4 months.

About AIM

AIM Computer Solutions, Inc. provides business software solutions for manufacturers with three distinct solutions to meet specific ERP needs. The AIM Vision® ERP solution is designed for small to mid-size repetitive automotive suppliers. AutoCOR is an ERP solution for mid-size to large automotive suppliers. AIM is an Epicor Silver Partner and provides Epicor ERP solutions and implementation assistance for project-based manufacturing. For the latest news and updates, connect with AIM on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and follow [@aimcomERPnews](#) on Twitter. For more information go to www.aimcom.com.

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