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ShipEngine
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title: Create a Label From a Shipment
description: One of the easiest ways to create a shipping label is from a shipment ID. ShipEngine specializes in helping you streamline your shipping needs with our world-class APIs.

Create a Label From a Shipment

Business owners and online sellers love the ease of creating shipping labels from a `shipment_id`. One of the reasons is speed. ShipEngine is committed to helping you learn how to bypass clunky user interfaces and instead, generate labels quickly with our APIs.

Why bother? It's actually an easy way to create and print shipping labels since most users often have the shipment ID. We believe eliminating extra steps is the lifeblood to saving time, money while increasing profits.

Sample Use Cases

Below are sample uses cases creating a label from a shipment:

- * Customizing label sizes and formats are a must
- * You need to streamline your label creation and printing
- * Your business is ready to automate more of your shipping steps
- * Downloading labels quickly for printing is ideal for your business
- * You're fed up with slow shipping websites that waste too much of your time

Customization is a hot-button topic for many ShipEngine users. These days, custom seems to fit so many orders. Below are two links to customization options our users find helpful:

- * Label formats & sizes [NEED LINK]
- * Download a label [NEED LINK]

API Endpoint

Send an HTTP `POST` request to `https://api.shipengine.com/v1/shipments`. For now on we'll refer to it as the `/v1/shipments` API endpoint.

Headers

There's two [HTTP headers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_HTTP_header_fields) you need to set in your request:

HTTP Header	Description
<code>`Content-Type`</code>	The Content-Type header specifies the media type of your API request. ShipEngine requires all requests to be in JSON format , so this header should always be set to <code>`application/json`</code> .
<code>`API-Key`</code>	For this header you'll need to pass your ShipEngine API key. This is how ShipEngine knows who you are. If you don't have an API key yet, read our Getting Started guide to learn how to create one.

Step #1

Before you can create the label from a shipment, you need the ``shipment_id``. We'll use the following request to create the shipment to get it.

****Request****

Copy and paste the following code into curl and tap ****Enter****. Remember to put your own API key in the ``_YOUR_API_KEY_`` placeholder on line #3. If you don't have an API key yet, read our [Getting Started guide](docs/getting-started/index.md) to learn how to create one.

...

```
url -iX POST https://api.shipengine.com/v1/shipments \
-H 'Content-Type: application/json' \
-H 'API-Key: _YOUR_API_KEY_' \
-d '{
  "shipments": [
    {
      "validate_address": "no_validation",
      "service_code": "usps_priority_mail",
      "external_shipment_id": "1daa0c22-0519-46d0-8653-9f3dc62e7d2c",
      "ship_to": {
        "name": "Jane Doe",
        "phone": "",
        "company_name": "",
        "address_line1": "525 S Winchester Blvd",
        "address_line2": "",
        "city_locality": "San Jose",
```

```

    "state_province": "CA",
    "postal_code": "95128",
    "country_code": "US",
    "address_residential_indicator": "no"
  },
  "ship_from": {
    "name": "John Doe",
    "phone": "555-555-5555",
    "company_name": "",
    "address_line1": "4009 Marathon Blvd",
    "address_line2": "",
    "city_locality": "Austin",
    "state_province": "TX",
    "postal_code": "78756",
    "country_code": "US",
    "address_residential_indicator": "no"
  },
  "confirmation": "none",
  "advanced_options": {},
  "insurance_provider": "none",
  "tags": [],
  "packages": [
    {
      "weight": {
        "value": 1.0,
        "unit": "ounce"
      }
    }
  ]
}
]
}'

```

...

****Response****

The response returns the shipment information along with the `shipment_id` that you need to create a label from a shipment:

...

HTTP/2 200

date: Sat, 14 Sep 2019 12:25:55 GMT

content-type: application/json; charset=utf-8

content-length: 3184

access-control-allow-origin: https://www.shipengine.com

vary: Origin

x-shipengine-requestid: 24bffe28-9144-4446-8e51-3dfa291f5967

```

{
  "has_errors": false,
  "shipments": [

```

```
{
  "errors": [],
  "address_validation": null,
  "shipment_id": "se-4059205",
  "carrier_id": "se-108487",
  "service_code": "usps_priority_mail",
  "external_shipment_id": "1daa0c22-0519-46d0-8653-9f3dc62e7d2c",
  "ship_date": "2019-09-14T00:00:00Z",
  "created_at": "2019-09-14T12:25:55.2670931Z",
  "modified_at": "2019-09-14T12:25:55.2670931Z",
  "shipment_status": "pending",
  "ship_to": {
    "name": "Jane Doe",
    "phone": "",
    "company_name": "",
    "address_line1": "525 S Winchester Blvd",
    "address_line2": "",
    "address_line3": null,
    "city_locality": "San Jose",
    "state_province": "CA",
    "postal_code": "95128",
    "country_code": "US",
    "address_residential_indicator": "no"
  },
  "ship_from": {
    "name": "John Doe",
    "phone": "555-555-5555",
    "company_name": "",
    "address_line1": "4009 Marathon Blvd",
    "address_line2": "",
    "address_line3": null,
    "city_locality": "Austin",
    "state_province": "TX",
    "postal_code": "78756",
    "country_code": "US",
    "address_residential_indicator": "unknown"
  },
  "warehouse_id": null,
  "return_to": {
    "name": "John Doe",
    "phone": "555-555-5555",
    "company_name": "",
    "address_line1": "4009 Marathon Blvd",
    "address_line2": "",
    "address_line3": null,
    "city_locality": "Austin",
    "state_province": "TX",
    "postal_code": "78756",
    "country_code": "US",
    "address_residential_indicator": "unknown"
  }
}
```

```
},
"confirmation": "none",
"customs": null,
"external_order_id": null,
"order_source_code": null,
"advanced_options": {
  "bill_to_account": null,
  "bill_to_country_code": null,
  "bill_to_party": null,
  "bill_to_postal_code": null,
  "contains_alcohol": false,
  "delivered_duty_paid": false,
  "non_machinable": false,
  "saturday_delivery": false,
  "dry_ice": false,
  "dry_ice_weight": null,
  "freight_class": null,
  "custom_field1": null,
  "custom_field2": null,
  "custom_field3": null
},
"insurance_provider": "none",
"tags": [],
"packages": [
  {
    "package_code": "package",
    "weight": {
      "value": 1.0,
      "unit": "ounce"
    },
    "dimensions": {
      "unit": "inch",
      "length": 0.0,
      "width": 0.0,
      "height": 0.0
    },
    "insured_value": {
      "currency": "usd",
      "amount": 0.0
    },
    "label_messages": {
      "reference1": null,
      "reference2": null,
      "reference3": null
    },
    "external_package_id": null
  }
],
"total_weight": {
  "value": 1.0,
```

```
        "unit": "ounce"
    },
    "items": []
}
]
```

...

Now that you have the `shipment_id` of `se-4059205` you can move on to Step #2.

Step #2

Send a `POST` request to create the label from the `shipment_id`.

****Request****

Copy and paste the following code into curl and tap ****Enter****. Remember to put your own API key in the `_YOUR_API_KEY_` placeholder on line #3.

...

```
curl -iX POST https://api.shipengine.com/v1/labels/shipment/se-4059205 \
-H 'Content-Type: application/json' \
-H 'API-Key: _YOUR_API_KEY_' \
-d '{
  "label_format": "pdf",
  "label_layout": "4x6",
  "label_download_type": "url"
}'
```

...

****Response****

The response returns the label information and links to download and print it.

...

```
{
"score": 0.9122137426845613,
"address": {
  "name": "Margie McMiller",
  "address_line1": "3800 North Lamar",
  "address_line2": "Suite 200",
  "city_locality": "Austin",
  "state_province": "TX",
  "postal_code": "78652",
  "address_residential_indicator": "unknown"
},
"entities": [
```

```
{
  "type": "person",
  "score": 0.9519646137063122,
  "text": "Margie McMiller",
  "start_index": 0,
  "end_index": 14,
  "result": {
    "value": "Margie McMiller"
  }
},
{
  "type": "address_line",
  "score": 0.9805313966503588,
  "text": "3800 North Lamar",
  "start_index": 19,
  "end_index": 34,
  "result": {
    "line": 1,
    "value": "3800 North Lamar"
  }
},
{
  "type": "number",
  "score": 0.9805313966503588,
  "text": "3800",
  "start_index": 19,
  "end_index": 22,
  "result": {
    "type": "cardinal",
    "value": 3800
  }
},
{
  "type": "address_line",
  "score": 1,
  "text": "suite 200",
  "start_index": 36,
  "end_index": 44,
  "result": {
    "line": 2,
    "value": "Suite 200"
  }
},
{
  "type": "number",
  "score": 0.9805313966503588,
  "text": "200",
  "start_index": 42,
  "end_index": 44,
  "result": {
```

```

        "type": "cardinal",
        "value": 200
    },
    {
        "type": "city_locality",
        "score": 0.9805313966503588,
        "text": "austin",
        "start_index": 49,
        "end_index": 54,
        "result": {
            "value": "Austin"
        }
    },
    {
        "type": "state_province",
        "score": 0.6082904353940255,
        "text": "tx",
        "start_index": 57,
        "end_index": 58,
        "result": {
            "name": "Texas",
            "value": "TX"
        }
    },
    {
        "type": "postal_code",
        "score": 0.9519646137063122,
        "text": "78652",
        "start_index": 84,
        "end_index": 88,
        "result": {
            "value": "78652"
        }
    }
]
}
...

```

#1 JAMES, IN THE WAY ABOVE WHAT SHIPENGINE RETURNS TABLE, THE FIELD VALUE RETURNS THE FOLLOWING IN CURL:

```
"address_residential_indicator": "unknown"
```

I LEFT THE VALUE PUBLISHED ON THE LIVE SITE AS: non-residential WITH INTENT TO CREATE MORE CREDIBILITY TO THE RETURN RATHER THAN "unknown".

#2 THE ABOVE REQUEST ACTUALLY RETURNED MARGIE MCMILLER STUFF RATHER THAN JAME DOE. LOOKS LIKE HAVING A USER TEST THIS TOPIC BY CREATING A SHIPMENT TO GET THE `shipment_id` of `se-4059205` MAY RUN INTO A PROBLEM. STEP #1 STUFF COMES FROM ME CREATING A SHIPMENT SO IT'S ODD THE RESPONSE IN STEP #2 IS RETURNING MARGIE MCMILLER STUFF.