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ShipEngine
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title: Label Formats and Sizes
description: Shipping a package often comes with required label formats and sizes. ShipEngine offers a variety of customization for your shipping needs. Not sure how to use shipping APIs to save more money? Relax, we'll help you learn the easy way.

Label Formats and Sizes

An easy way to manage and create custom shipping label formats and sizes is by using the ShipEngine APIs. We've done all of the heavy lifting to centralize the most preferred carrier labels.

ShipEngine provides labels in three formats:

File Format	Description
PDF	Adobe's Portable Document Format compatible with nearly all web browsers.
PNG	Portable Network Graphics image file ideal for printing from a web browser.
ZPL	The Zebra Programming Language format designed for labeling.

By default, all of the ShipEngine label dimensions are 4"x6". Although you can create labels in the US letter size of 8.5"x11" by setting the `label_layout:` field to `letter`.

Example

In this example, you send a `POST` request to create a 4"x6" label using US Priority Mail. The `service_code` value will be `usps_priority_mail`.

API Endpoint

You'll send an HTTP `POST` request to `https://api.shipengine.com/v1/labels`.

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
`Content-Type`	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 `application/json`.
`API-Key`	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.

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.

...

```
curl -iX POST https://api.shipengine.com/v1/labels \
-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 label and download links to print it:

...

HTTP/2 200

date: Sat, 14 Sep 2019 20:45:54 GMT

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

content-length: 1514

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

vary: Origin

x-shipengine-requestid: ae3460e6-9bbc-43d8-b273-32c1e3afa8e2

```
{
  "label_id": "se-1325010",
  "status": "completed",
  "shipment_id": "se-4061757",
  "ship_date": "2019-09-14T00:00:00Z",
  "created_at": "2019-09-14T20:45:53.107126Z",
  "shipment_cost": {
    "currency": "usd",
    "amount": 7.99
  },
  "insurance_cost": {
    "currency": "usd",
    "amount": 0.0
  },
}
```

```
"tracking_number": "9405511899223431759861",
"is_return_label": false,
"rma_number": null,
"is_international": false,
"batch_id": "",
"carrier_id": "se-108487",
"service_code": "usps_priority_mail",
"package_code": "package",
"voided": false,
"voided_at": null,
"label_format": "png",
"label_layout": "4x6",
"trackable": true,
"carrier_code": "stamps_com",
"tracking_status": "in_transit",
"label_download": {
  "href": "https://api.shipengine.com/v1/downloads/10/dV0UmTRCJU-
mQPtzaR0FEg/label-1325010.png"
},
"form_download": null,
"insurance_claim": null,
"packages": [
  {
    "package_code": "package",
    "weight": {
      "value": 1.00,
      "unit": "ounce"
    },
    "dimensions": {
      "unit": "inch",
      "length": 0.0,
      "width": 0.0,
      "height": 0.0
    },
    "insured_value": {
      "currency": "usd",
      "amount": 0.00
    },
    "tracking_number": "9405511899223431759861",
    "label_messages": {
      "reference1": null,
      "reference2": null,
      "reference3": null
    },
    "external_package_id": null
  }
]
...

```

Below is the label:

![shipping label formats](4x6-label-format-example.png)