

Peter Gustafson writing sample
ShipEngine
September 6, 2019

title: Multi-Package Shipments
description: When you have multiple packages shipping to one address, multi-package shipments are your best bet. They save you money. ShipEngine is a leader in multi-package shipping. Get your free API key today.

Multi-Package Shipments

Shipping multiple packages to same address as one group is common. For example, online sellers send many boxes to one customer fulfilling just one order. At ShipEngine, we strive to make things simple and easy. The best part is you get one tracking number for the shipment group. It's called a one-to-many master tracking number.

Carrier Support

The carriers offering multi-package services include the following:

- * FedEx
- * UPS
- * DHL Express
- * DHL Express Canada
- * DHL Express UK
- * FirstMile
- * Purolator Canada

Need to use a different carrier? Learn how to check for ones which support multi-package shipments using the ``is_multi_package_supported`` property when making a [List Carriers](LINK TO LIST CARRIERS PAGE) or [List Carrier Services](LINK TO LIST CARRIER SERVICES PAGE) call.

JAMES, WE NEED TO ADD ``is_multi_package_supported`` INSTRUCTIONS ON EITHER THE LIST CARRIERS OR LIST CARRIER SERVICES PAGE.

Example

This example uses a FedEx linked account to generate a multi-package label. The shipment is two packages sent using FedEx Express Saver to one address.

API Endpoint

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

Headers

The following [List of HTTP header fields](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_HTTP_header_fields) will need to be included 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 Body

The body of your HTTP request is where you specify all of the information about the shipment. You'll use the following criteria:

Field	Value
`ship_to`	Jane Doe 525 S Winchester Blvd San Jose, CA 95128
`ship_from`	John Doe 525 4009 Marathon Blvd Austin, TX 78756 555-555-5555
`service_code`	`fedex_express_saver`

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 '{
  "shipment": {
```

```
"service_code": "fedex_express_saver",
"ship_to": {
  "name": "Jane Doe",
  "phone": "",
  "company_name": "",
  "address_line1": "525 S Winchester Blvd",
  "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"
},
"insurance_provider": "carrier",
"packages": [
  {
    "weight": {
      "value": 10.0,
      "unit": "ounce"
    },
    "insured_value": {
      "amount": 110.00,
      "currency": "USD"
    },
    "dimensions": {
      "length": 10,
      "height": 10,
      "width": 10,
      "unit": "inch"
    }
  },
  {
    "weight": {
      "value": 20.0,
      "unit": "ounce"
    },
    "insured_value": {
      "amount": 200.00,
      "currency": "USD"
    }
  }
]
```

```
    },
    "dimensions": {
      "length": 15,
      "height": 15,
      "width": 15,
      "unit": "inch"
    }
  }
]
}'
...

```

****Response****

The response returns the group shipment tracking number and links to download the shipping labels. ShipEngine consolidate all of the labels into one PDF file. Currently, we don't support the PNG file format to print multi-package shipping labels. We promise the PDF will make things much easier for you when printing.

...

HTTP/2 200

date: Fri, 20 Sep 2019 22:51:39 GMT

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

content-length: 2252

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

vary: Origin

x-shipengine-requestid: 45838d13-e1e4-4ff3-801c-c19d469dd018

```
{
  "label_id": "se-1423831",
  "status": "completed",
  "shipment_id": "se-4229091",
  "ship_date": "2019-09-20T00:00:00Z",
  "created_at": "2019-09-20T22:51:37.5077888Z",
  "shipment_cost": {
    "currency": "usd",
    "amount": 139.18
  },
  "insurance_cost": {
    "currency": "usd",
    "amount": 6.0
  },
  "tracking_number": "789956562492",
  "is_return_label": false,
  "rma_number": null,
  "is_international": false,
  "batch_id": "",
  "carrier_id": "se-108563",

```

```
"service_code": "fedex_express_saver",
"package_code": "package",
"voided": false,
"voided_at": null,
"label_format": "pdf",
"label_layout": "4x6",
"trackable": true,
"carrier_code": "fedex",
"tracking_status": "in_transit",
"label_download": {
  "pdf": "https://api.shipengine.com/v1/downloads/10/I_ON2KZsVEykCMF8AtiI9Q/label-1423831.pdf",
  "zpl": "https://api.shipengine.com/v1/downloads/10/I_ON2KZsVEykCMF8AtiI9Q/label-1423831.zpl",
  "href": "https://api.shipengine.com/v1/downloads/10/I_ON2KZsVEykCMF8AtiI9Q/label-1423831.pdf"
},
"form_download": null,
"insurance_claim": null,
"packages": [
  {
    "package_code": "package",
    "weight": {
      "value": 10.00,
      "unit": "ounce"
    },
    "dimensions": {
      "unit": "inch",
      "length": 10.00,
      "width": 10.00,
      "height": 10.00
    },
    "insured_value": {
      "currency": "usd",
      "amount": 110.00
    },
    "tracking_number": "789956562492",
    "label_messages": {
      "reference1": null,
      "reference2": null,
      "reference3": null
    },
    "external_package_id": null
  },
  {
    "package_code": "package",
    "weight": {
      "value": 20.00,
      "unit": "ounce"
    }
  },

```

```
"dimensions": {
  "unit": "inch",
  "length": 15.00,
  "width": 15.00,
  "height": 15.00
},
"insured_value": {
  "currency": "usd",
  "amount": 200.00
},
"tracking_number": "789956562698",
"label_messages": {
  "reference1": null,
  "reference2": null,
  "reference3": null
},
"external_package_id": null
}
..]
```

Below are the shipping labels:

![multi package shipments](multi-package-labels-example.png)