

CASE STUDY

AUTOMOTIVE. COMPLIANCE AND TRADE SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS.

Livingston helps keep brake and steering supplier's time-sensitive deliveries on track – and realize thousands in monthly savings.

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Just in Time delivery systems transformed the businesses of manufacturing, particularly for automakers.

Maybe there should be little surprise. The concept was born in Japan under the Toyota Production System, where businesses found ways to reduce waste and improve supplier response times alike.

Traditional warehouses were gradually shed. Trucks were soon treated like warehouses on wheels. Components began to arrive just as they were needed on the assembly line.

That time-sensitive focus remains.

One Livingston client, a supplier of brakes and steering systems, needed to find a way to drive even more efficiency through its supply chain.

Processing exports in 30 minutes

Time is of the essence in the hyper-competitive automotive sector. The business had to tighten every aspect of the supply chain, leaving no room for waste.

With goods moving between Mexico, the U.S. and Canada -- and by air, ocean and ground -- the supply chain was



complex and a challenge to manage. Operations were generally smooth, but managers recognized there was room to improve, particularly in how the business leveraged technology to automate processes and improve efficiencies.

The goal was to process every export out of the U.S. within 30 minutes, and address related imports in as little as 20 minutes.

Electronic environment leads to success

By leveraging Livingston's Insight® Compliance Center, the company established a common technology platform that can support high volumes and tight turnaround times, offer the tools to support audits, and generate the data to identify opportunities to reduce average duty thresholds. Insight even helps track crossings at every border, including modes of transportation.

All printed documents were ultimately shifted into the electronic environment, reducing human error and improving compliance. 100% of entries are audited and a pre-entry audit for air/ocean entries is in place to ensure the highest degree of compliance.

Working with a single service provider, the client has seen **improved visibility through the supply chain.**



But the solutions involved more than technology alone. Having a single provider improved visibility throughout the supply chain. This made it possible to audit purchase orders, and track a pair of reference numbers instead of one. Within a 15-minute window, Livingston can now submit a release request and file an entry summary once it is accepted by Customs.

It has all made a direct difference in the client's bottom line. The improved communications through Electronic Data Interchange transactions reduced costs by more than \$1,000 per month. Newly realized tax and duty savings have also saved more than \$10,000 per month under NAFTA.

It all helps to keep the business on track.

Contact Livingston

Have questions or need help with your automotive supply chain? We're here to help.
Email us at: simplify@livingstonintl.com
or give us a call at **1-800-837-1063**

