

Case Study

Veterinary pharmaceutical company saves \$225,000 in freight costs annually and reallocates 5 employees through box-to-automation transition.



Pregis Sharp Automated Mailing Solutions

Summary

A veterinary pharmaceutical provider faced cost and safety-related operational challenges stemming from the corrugated boxes they used to ship products. Box assembly was time consuming and strenuous on packers, with repeated motions leading to injuries. In addition, the freight cost from twice-weekly box deliveries was piling up. Pregis' service-first approach helped the company make effective packing a reality through automation.

The Challenge

The company relied on corrugated boxes to ship various medications nationwide, which came with noticeable disadvantages. The boxes took up valuable warehouse space, even before assembly. To avoid space constraints, they shipped in two truckloads of custom boxes a week, amassing an annual freight bill of over \$225,000.

The corrugated boxes also caused strain for employees – literally. To keep up with packing operations, box assembly required all hands-on deck. Management even had to pull employees off the picking line, reducing operational efficiency. Additionally, the repetitive motion of box assembly caused hand strains and sprains, further impacting labor challenges and throughput.

The operations manager was eager to implement an automated solution but found a competitor's trial unsatisfactory. Pregis was brought in to provide a frictionless solution that fit into the company's existing packing operation and make an immediate impact.

Solution

After assessing the existing concerns, a Pregis Specialist worked with the company's operations manager to install 5 Pregis Sharp SX automated baggers running poly mailers at the company's largest distribution center for a packing trial. The Pregis Specialist was onsite for the duration of the installation, reducing the implementation process to just three hours, significantly shorter than the 3-week timeline for the competitor trial.



Labor & Efficiency
Reallocated
5
PACKERS

During the trial, the primary focus was sustaining minimal damage rates. Once the first 2,000 shipments of over-the-counter medications was successful, the trial moved to more complex medications, which also yielded extremely low damage rates.

In addition to keeping the packing efficient, the Sharp SX automated baggers with Zebra printers also easily integrated with the existing label printing software, further reducing downtime and the need for extensive training.



Reduced freight spend

Results

The company saw significant improvements in two key areas:

- **Freight reduction** – Because Pregis poly mailers are stocked locally with a channel partner, the company was able to eliminate \$225K+ in annual freight spend on weekly box deliveries.
- **Labor reallocation** – The facility reallocated 5 full-time employees from the packing line to other necessary parts of the business, preventing disruptions to picking operations and reducing the number of seasonal workers needed during peak season.



Reduced packing labor

Service that truly makes a difference

The immediate onsite support from the Pregis Sharp Automated Mailing team made all the difference for the customer. It was very important that the new automated solution was not simply “dropped” into their facility and left for the employees to install and operate without guidance. The Pregis Sharp team was readily available from the start and made sure shift supervisors and packers alike were comfortable with operating the SX baggers so they could be immediately incorporated into packing processes. The Pregis team’s service combined with the machine efficiency led the customer to not only implement the SX machines into their largest distribution facility but to extend new trials to their other facilities nationwide.



Difference-making service

Act now!

Contact us to discover what Pregis automation can do for you!