

# Fulfilment by Amazon

## Shipment label requirements



# What is FBA shipment label?

Once you decide what you are shipping to Amazon and determine the appropriate shipping method and carrier to use, it is time for labelling and packaging. Requirements outlined in this guide apply to all boxes shipped to Amazon fulfilment centers whether by small parcel delivery (SPD), less than truckload (LTL) or full truckload (FTL) shipping.

**FBA shipment label** (also referred to as FBA carton label, shipment box label, carton ID, box ID, etc.) is a **label unique for each carton**. When you provide box content information during the shipment creation workflow, each FBA box ID label will contain the information for a specific box.



There are several types of label you as a seller might come across, such as:

- **Pallet label** - Each pallet that you ship must have a pallet label, which includes information that the fulfillment center uses to verify the arrival of the shipment. Pallet labels do not have a unique identifier and thus are not used to receive your units.
- **Carrier label** – Additional label that contains carrier name, tracking ID and information about the shipper and the shipment destination.

However, do not confuse these labels with the carton label which is unique for each box. Also, applying only carrier and/or pallet label is **not** sufficient.

[For more information visit Seller Central](#)

# Why is the FBA shipment label important?

The barcode on FBA carton label includes information the fulfillment center uses to identify not only your shipment but also the content of particular box. This helps us to receive your inventory correctly and efficiently.

Therefore each box you ship to an Amazon fulfillment center must be properly identified with a unique box ID (e.g. FBA15E163ABCU000001).

It is crucial to affix your box labels to the correct boxes to ensure that the label information identifies and matches the physical content of each box.



Be aware that not properly labeling your boxes with the required carton shipment ID label can result in denial of reimbursement claims, unit receive errors, delays in receiving your units, and blocking of your shipment creation abilities.

## How do I generate a shipment box label?

You can either **generate the box labels** in the Prepare shipment tab of your **Seller Central account** or via a third party software (e.g. **Selling Partner API (API)**. To learn more about the API label requirements, visit following [help page](#) or see p. 9-12 of this guide.).

**Important:** The standard format of the FBA shipping label is **FBA shipment ID+U+6 digits**. For example, Shipment ID: FBA1BCDZ7777, Carton Nr: 15, the format of the barcode should be **FBA1BCDZ7777U000015**

[For more information visit Seller Central](#)

# Labeling guidelines

## DOs



- ✓ Print the **full set** of labels.
- ✓ **Reprint the entire set** of labels for your shipment if you **modify the number of boxes on your shipment** or their indicated content after you have already printed your labels.
- ✓ Label each box in the shipment with its **own FBA box ID label identified with its own unique numerical identifier (Shipment ID+U+6 digits)** (e.g. FBA2HCHAAAU000001, FBA2HCHAAAU000002, FBA2HCHAAAU000003, etc.). Barcode on each FBA box ID label contains information about the specific content (SKU, quantity, expiry date if applicable, box weight and dimensions) as you indicated in step “Provide box content information”. You must affix your box labels to the correct boxes to ensure that the label information identifies and matches the physical content of each box. If there is a mismatch between announced and physical content of a particular carton, receiving delays will occur. NOTE: This policy applies to boxes containing a sellable unit that is ready to ship to customers.
- ✓ If you’re shipping multiple case packs in a master carton (a single box containing smaller case packed boxes), apply the **FBA box ID label** to the **master carton**. You do not need to apply FBA box ID labels to the case packs inside the master carton.
- ✓ Place both the **Fulfillment by Amazon (FBA) box ID label** and the **carrier label** (UPS, FedEx, or other SPD carrier) evenly on a **flat surface** of the box so the barcodes don’t fold over the **edges or corners**.
- ✓ Ensure that both labels remain **uncovered** so they are scannable and readable. Please do not cover the label with tape or place it in the plastic pouch.
- ✓ Remove or cover **any other shipment labels or markings** if you are reusing boxes from previous shipments.

[For more information visit Seller Central](#)

## DOs

- ✓ Use a rigid, six-sided container with flaps intact. Boxes must sufficiently protect the contents during transit and processing at Amazon's fulfilment centres. The appropriate containers must include **RSC (regular slotted box), B flute, ECT-32 (edge crush test), and 200BH (burst strength)**.
- ✓ Ensure to apply the FBA shipping labels evenly on flat surfaces and at least **1.25 inches (3.18 cm)** away from the **corners, edges and seams**.
- ✓ Ensure the size of the FBA carton label meets minimum requirements (choose from supported format options only) **IMPORTANT:** If your printer attempts to scale the PDF print area when you print your labels, make sure the printer scaling is set to **None or 100%**.
- ✓ Periodically test your labels by scanning them.
- ✓ Periodically test, clean and replace your printer heads.
- ✓ Use a **thermal printer (thermal transfer)** or laser printer with a print resolution of **300 DPI** or greater.

[For more information visit Seller Central](#)

# Labeling guidelines

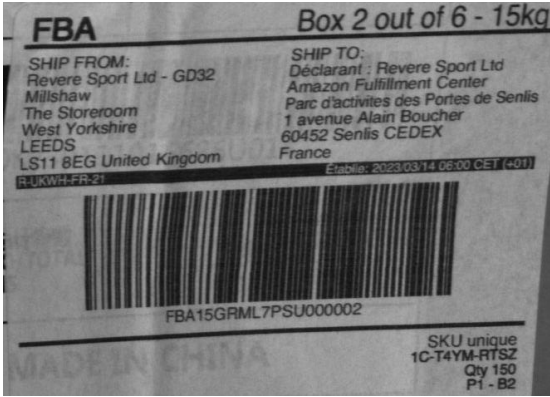

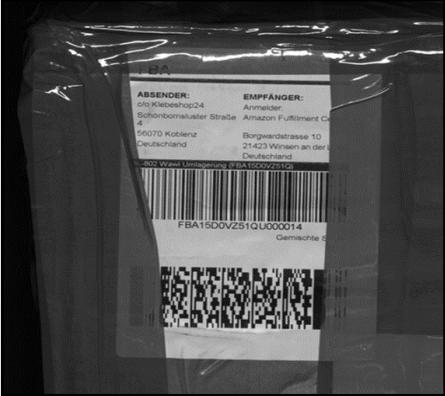

## DON'Ts

- X Placing labels close to a seam or opening on the box because they will be damaged when the box is opened.
- X Placing labels on the corner/edge of the box. Whenever possible, place shipment labels no closer than 1.25 inches from the corner/edge of the box.
- X Photocopying, reusing, or modifying the labels for use on additional boxes (Each label is unique and should only be applied to the respective box)
- X Applying only pallet labels to your cartons. Pallet labels do not have a unique identifier and thus are not used to receive your units.
- X Applying both pallet label and FBA shipment ID label to your carton, as it can cause receiving errors.
- X Covering the shipment labels with the tape or place them in plastic pouch.
- X Applying only carrier label and/or 2D barcode label (It is not sufficient)

[For more information visit Seller Central](#)

# Most common scannability issues

## Barcodes typically cannot be scanned for any of these reasons:

<p><b>PRINT</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>X ink is smeared, smudged, or too light, ink has bled or faded</li> <li>X barcode was printed too close to the label edge</li> <li>X label has been mistyped or misspelled</li> <li>X tiny white lines appear on the label</li> </ul>	
<p><b>POSITION</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>X barcode placed over the seam of the box where it can become damaged by box cutters</li> <li>X label has not been evenly applied on flat surfaces</li> <li>X label was placed around a corner, curve or close to edge</li> </ul>	
<p><b>COVERED</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>X label has been obscured or covered/placed in a plastic pouch</li> <li>X label is covered with tape or strap</li> </ul>	
<p><b>OTHER</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>X part of the barcode or label has been cut off on any side</li> <li>X label is too small to scan</li> <li>X label printed on an unsuitable material preventing it from being scannable (too glossy/too dark/cut through barcode)</li> </ul>	

# Tips to ensure a good scannability of shipment labels

What type of a printer to use to ensure the best scannability? See what Amazon recommends:



**Thermal printers\*** (with resolution at least 300 dpi, [Thermal Transfer Printing](#))



Laser printers



Ink jet printers

\*The tools in your seller account are optimized for thermal printers, therefore these are our recommendation to achieve the best scannability.

We support labels measured at least 3 1/3 x 4 inches (8.4 cm x 10.2 cm).

If you have a thermal printer, you now also have the option to print directly on 4 x 6 inches (10.2 cm x 15.2 cm) format by selecting "thermal printing paper" in the box and pallet label printing options.

If your printer attempts to scale the PDF print area when you print your labels, make sure the printer scaling is set to [None](#) or [100%](#).



## Remember to:

- Periodically test your labels by scanning them
- Periodically test, clean and replace your printer heads
- Regularly check help pages in Seller Central for updates on the most recent labeling requirements (we do not send emails to inform about these changes)

# Shipment label specifications (Selling Partner API) #1

If you opt to create **your own FBA shipment ID labels** instead of using the ones available in your shipping queue in Seller Central, you will need to ensure that the labels you create include all of the following 7 items:

The diagram shows an FBA shipment label with the following fields and callouts:

- 1. Seller name:** Points to the 'SHIP FROM' section, specifically the 'Seller name' field.
- 2. "Ship from" address:** Points to the 'SHIP FROM' section, specifically the 'AddressLine1', 'AddressLine2', and 'United States' fields.
- 3. "Ship to" address (the fulfillment center address that Fulfillment by Amazon (FBA) provided to you):** Points to the 'SHIP TO' section, specifically the 'Amazon.com', '500 McCarthy Dr', 'Lewisberry, PA 17339', and 'United States' fields.
- 4. FBA shipment identifier (the barcode that identifies a package in a shipment):** Points to the barcode and the alphanumeric string 'FBAS6KGBD3HKU000001' below it.

The label itself contains the following text:

PLEASE LEAVE THIS LABEL UNCOVERED

**FBA** **Media**

**SHIP FROM:**  
 Seller name  
 AddressLine1  
 AddressLine2  
 SomeCity, WA 55555  
 United States

**SHIP TO:**  
 Amazon.com  
 500 McCarthy Dr  
 Lewisberry, PA 17339  
 United States

FBA (2/24/14 1:44 PM) - 1

**Purchase Order/ Shipment ID**

[Barcode]

FBAS6KGBD3HKU000001

Internal Use Only  
 FBA-NEW / Stickerless

Assorted SKUs

4. FBA shipment identifier (the barcode that identifies a package in a shipment). For Small Parcel shipments, the shipping label for each package should have a **unique barcode**. This helps ensure that your shipment is processed in a timely manner when it reaches Amazon's fulfillment network (see more information on the next page).

[For more information visit Fulfillment Inbound API Use Case Guide](#)

## Shipment label specifications (Selling Partner API) #2

### 5. A section clearly marked Internal Use Only.



4a. To construct unique barcode values for each package in a shipment, follow this formula:

Shipment ID + U + 000001(6 digits)

Start with your Shipment ID value and append "U" and "000001" to get the barcode value for the first package in the shipment.

- To get the barcode values for each successive package in the shipment, (1) increment "000001" by one, and then (2) append "U" and the incremented number to the Shipment ID value.

**Do this for each package in the shipment.**

See the examples below:

1. Shipment ID: FBA1BCDZ7777, Carton Nr15, the format of the barcode value should be **FBA1BCDZ7777U000015**

2. If you have three packages in a shipment with a Shipment ID FBAS6KGBD3HK, your barcode values would be FBAS6KGBD3HKU000001, FBAS6KGBD3HKU000002, and FBAS6KGBD3HKU000003.

# Shipment label specifications (Selling Partner API) #3

7. In the top right corner of the label, indicate whether the shipment contains media or non-media items. See the following descriptions of the three options you can choose from:



- "Media" - Indicates that the shipment contains only Books, Music, Video, DVD (BMVD) items.
- "Non-media" - Indicates that the shipment contains only non-BMVD items.
- blank (no text) - Indicates that the shipment contains a combination of BMVD and non-BMVD items.

6a. (optional) A section clearly marked **Seller Use Only**, below the Internal Use Only section. Use this if you want to provide any seller-specific information.

6. On the left side of the Internal Use Only, indicate any preparation that is required at the fulfillment center.  
E.g. if you require labeling, indicate that as:  
*FC Prep Required - LABELING*

6b. On the right side of the Internal Use Only, choose one of the options:

- For a package that contains units all of the same SKU, indicate the *quantity of units*.
- For a package that contains units with different SKUs, indicate *"Assorted SKUs"*.
- For a master carton (a box made to contain a certain number smaller boxes) that is not full, indicate *"Partial case"*.

# Additional shipping label specifications (API)

## Label font specifications

- Use a font that clearly **distinguishes a zero from the letter "O"**. For example, use a slashed zero.
- Use a font that clearly **distinguishes the number one from a lowercase letter "L" and an uppercase letter "I"**.
- Unless otherwise noted, Amazon recommends that you use the **normal font weight** (not bold) and that the **font size be 8 point**.



## Shipping label barcode specifications

- **Format:** Code 128A
- **Height:** Greater than 0.5" (1.3 cm), or 15% of the barcode length
- **Narrow barcode element:** Greater than 0.0075" (.19 mm)
- **Wide-to-narrow element ratio:** 3:1
- **Quiet zone (sides):** Greater than 0.25" (6.4 mm)
- **Quiet zone (top and bottom):** Greater than 0.125" (3.2 mm)

### Font types recommended by Amazon:

Consolas (Windows)  
 Monaco (Mac)  
 Andale Mono (Mac, Linux)

## Shipping label print specifications

- **Label color:** White
- **Label size:** Amazon recommends that you use a label with a height by width dimension of 4"x6" (10.2 cm x 15.2 cm). However, you can use a label size up to 6" x 8" (15.2 cm x 20.3 cm).
- **Label type:** Permanent adhesive

[For more information visit Fulfillment Inbound API Use Case Guide](#)