

## ***Discover the ease of night distribution***

### **Never wait for parts and components anymore**

**In many sectors, the benefits of night distribution are still unknown after a quarter of a century. This unique service can be a solution especially for the electrical engineering and installation industry. In particular as delivery speed becomes more important and congestion increases, supplying companies and services buses overnight offers new opportunities to organize processes more efficiently. Parts Express explains why.**

Parts Express introduces night distribution in the Netherlands 25 years ago. This innovation was a solution for garage companies, who saw the number of parts grow but could not afford to put everything in stock. Now they order what they need at the end of the day, after which Parts Express ensures that the parts are present the next morning before the start of the working day.

Norbert van Duuren, general manager of Parts Express, is convinced that many more sectors lend themselves to night distribution. Such as the installation and electrical engineering sectors. "Many companies in those sectors continue to rely on next-day distribution, even with time critical deliveries. Companies expect a delivery to arrive at 8.30 in the morning, even during a busy morning rush hour on a rainy autumn day. "Those who base their planning on that run a high risk of disruption to their operation, resulting in high failure costs. Just look at the increasing crowds on the highways. Night distribution is an efficient, sustainable and extremely reliable alternative, explains Van Duuren.

#### **Deploy people more efficiently**

The benefits for installation companies are numerous. Parts that they order at the end of the working day are already available the next morning before 6.00. They don't have to drive around first to pick up parts, but can go straight to their job. Inter-branch traffic for exchange of parts between different locations is also an option. "Waiting for parts is no longer necessary," says Van Duuren: "Certainly now that there is a shortage of people with training in installation technology, it is crucial to deploy existing employees as efficiently as possible. Night distribution helps."

Night distribution is also an answer to the expanding assortments and decreasing service life cycle of parts and components. Installation companies cannot keep everything in stock, certainly not in the buses of installers. If they do, they run the risk that parts are already outdated before they are mounted. "In many buses there is a large share capital, with the destruction of capital lurking. With night distribution, installers never have to miss out, while the use of working capital is a lot smaller. And we can take used parts back for revision or recycling."

#### **Scan of every operation**

If companies opt for night distribution, Parts Express picks up the shipments at the end of the day or the beginning of the evening. If all shipments arrive between 21.00 and 22.00 at the central transfer center in Vianen, they are sorted by route. The shipments per route are loaded in a truck, after which the driver sets off. Usually that is around midnight. "On average, every truck has thirty to forty shipments," explains Tom de Vos, commercial director of Parts Express.

An error-free delivery process is crucial for night distribution. After all, the receiver is not present at night to check the shipment. Every operation is therefore validated with barcode scanning. "Every shipment is scanned during loading, but also during unloading. When the driver arrives at the location, he scans a special barcode at that location and the dispatch units that he delivers. That proves that the goods have arrived at the correct destination," says de Vos. Van Duuren adds: "In addition, night distribution prevents disruption of the work process. No one is needed to receive the driver or help with the unloading. "

#### **Safe and trusted**

Night distribution requires trust in the service and the service provider. After all, the driver comes by when no one is present, often with a key to put the goods in safely. "We work as much as possible with regular drivers and fixed routes. The drivers come back the next day and know the way, even in the dark. Moreover, he receives a detailed location description for each address including instructions and eventual alarm codes," says Van Duuren.

In addition to companies, Parts Express also delivers in delivery vans of installers and fitters. Even if that bus is unexpectedly not in the familiar place, the driver of Parts Express knows where to find it. De Vos: "We have a system that allows us to follow the bus and record the geographical position when the key is removed from the contact. We can further increase reliability by using electronic locks. Consider a slot for which the driver receives a one-time digital code that is only valid for a specific period of time. "

### **Long and large items**

What distinguishes Parts Express from other distribution specialists is the possibility to take long goods and large items. This is particularly useful for electrical and installation companies. If an radiator or sink is urgently needed, Parts Express will take care of it. Many distribution companies set limits on the dimensions of packaging due to the limitations of their sorting systems. Van Duuren: "Because we sort everything manually, we offer maximum flexibility. Even if there are peaks, we can easily scale up by hiring extra people. "

### **More about Parts Express**

*Parts Express specializes in fast-meshed distribution of parts and components. A quarter of a century ago Parts Express introduced an important logistical innovation: night distribution.*

*This unique service has become commonsense in the automotive sector. In addition to night distribution, Parts Express also offers next-day distribution, same-day distribution and warehousing. With depots in the north, middle and south of the country and in Belgium, the family owned company offers an extremely meshed and reliable network. Parts Express's head office is in Vianen. For more information, visit [www.partsexpress.nl](http://www.partsexpress.nl).*

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