



Expediting a critical temperature-controlled international shipment

Cadence Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is a biopharmaceutical company focused on acquiring, in-licensing, developing and commercializing proprietary products principally for use in the hospital setting.

Increased response time at a decreased cost

In 2011, Cadence launched commercial sales of OFIRMEV® (acetaminophen) injection, a proprietary intravenous formulation of acetaminophen for which the company has exclusive rights in the U.S. and Canadian markets.

Due to a temporary supply disruption from its U.S. supplier and strong demand for OFIRMEV by North American hospitals and pharmacies, Cadence needed to quickly transport a large shipment of the product from a sourcing facility in Italy to the company's logistics provider's facility in Memphis.

The challenge was to ensure a constant Controlled Room Temperature (CRT) band (15–25°C) for the 106-pallet shipment.

While Cadence could have utilized temperature-controlled air transport containers for the shipment, the container procurement and logistics process would have taken an estimated 2–4 weeks — extra time that the company could not afford to waste.

That's when FedEx offered a faster — and significantly more cost effective — alternative: a CRT Boeing 777F charter. The specially equipped aircraft feature cargo temperatures in multiple zones that are controlled manually by the pilots, temperature sensors that provide data points every 10 minutes and data loggers installed on the ceiling.



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*Dave Dezan, Director,
Supply Chain Operations
Cadence Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*

A comprehensive, collaborative solution

Here's how FedEx achieved the complex end-to-end temperature-controlled solution:

- FedEx Custom Critical arranged for temperature-controlled vehicles to pick up the pallets from Cadence's supplier in Italy and transport them to the FedEx Express facility at Leonardo da Vinci-Fiumicino Airport in Rome.
- The FedEx Express ramp crew used the FedEx® thermal blanket solution, part of the FedEx Temp-Assure® portfolio that supports temperature-controlled shipments, to protect the product from temperature excursion during aircraft loading and unloading and then loaded the entire shipment onto the CRT Boeing 777F.
- Team members from FedEx accompanied the shipment, providing constant temperature monitoring throughout the flight to the FedEx Express hub in Memphis.
- FedEx Trade Networks facilitated the expedited Customs clearance for the shipment, which was then released by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for final delivery.
- Teams from FedEx Custom Critical loaded the pallets onto six temperature-controlled tractor trailers and transported them to the customer's logistics provider's facility in Memphis.

The entire process — from loading the product at the sourcing facility in Italy to stocking the product for final delivery to customers — took less than six days.

"I can honestly say this was the largest and single-most critical shipment of my entire 20-year career," said Dave Dezan, Director, Supply Chain Operations for Cadence. "Although this was one of the most detailed shipments, it was also one of the easiest transactions to plan and execute, thanks to the support and commitment we received from the entire FedEx team. The bottom line is that FedEx made it happen — on time and as promised."

Dezan added that this single shipment of OFIRMEV enabled his company to satisfy customer requirements for the product, which Cadence estimates may be used to treat more than 100,000 hospitalized patients.



The FedEx Controlled Room Temperature (CRT) Boeing 777F charters like the one used for the Cadence shipment can simultaneously maintain both CRT (15–25°C) and cold (2–8°C) temperature bands in different parts of the aircraft. The charters also feature temperature sensors that provide data points every 10 minutes and data loggers installed on the ceiling.



A fast, reliable alternative for your large CRT shipments

If you need to quickly transport large Controlled Room Temperature (CRT) shipments around the world, the FedEx CRT Boeing 777F charter is a cost-effective solution. The aircraft feature cargo temperatures in multiple zones controlled manually by the pilots. For details, go to [fedex.com/healthcare](https://www.fedex.com/healthcare).