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THE COMPUTERISED WAREHOUSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The evolution of warehouse management systems (WMS) is very similar to that of many other software solutions. Initially a system to control movement and storage of materials within a warehouse, the role of WMS is expanding to including light manufacturing, transportation management, order management, and complete accounting systems.

Introduction

Warehouse management systems (WMS) are best described as the advanced technology and operating processes that optimize all warehousing functions. These functions typically begin with receipts from suppliers and end with shipments to customers, and include all inventory movements and information flows in between.

I. Warehouse Management System

Warehouse management systems (WMS) are best described as the advanced technology and operating processes that optimize all warehousing functions.In practice, successful WMS solutions are generally designed to merge computer hardware, software, and peripheral equipment with improved operating practices for managing inventory, space, labor, and capital equipment in warehouses and distribution centers.

Why invest in a WMS ?

The most common reasons distributors invest in a WMS are to improve customer service and/or to improve resource utilization i.e. inventory, buildings, and people.

TYPES OF WAREHOUSE

1. Distribution Warehouses - Warehouses performing distribution services on behalf of their customers. This generally requires that products be received and tracked by lot or sub-lot, with or without tracking numbers, such as pallet tags or serial numbers.
2. Warehouses Providing Value Added Services - Warehouses providing a wide range of value added services. This requires the warehouse to apply labor and, in some cases, special equipment to the customer's products, such as repackaging, further processing, or labeling.

Do You Really Need WMS ?

Not every warehouse needs a WMS. Certainly any warehouse could benefit from some of the functionality but is the benefit great enough to justify the initial and ongoing costs associated with WMS? Warehouse Management Systems are big, complex, data intensive, applications. They tend to require a lot of initial setup, a lot of system resources to run, and a lot of ongoing data management to continue to run.

Conclusion

The warehouse operations play a crucial rule in integrated supply chain operations and makes a positive contribution to economics development. The appropriate operations in retailers' warehouse not only significantly improve customer satisfaction, but also bring huge profit to supply chain as well. To ensure perfect operation of warehouse, the retailers should put some efforts in the following aspects:

1. as to the facilities, the retailers should develop suitable locations for picking and adopt appropriate technology for efficient warehouse operations.
2. as for suppliers, the retailers should develop delicate program for supplier measurements and establish good relationships with suppliers to ensure timely and abundant supplement
3. When it comes to the whole warehouse operation, the retailers should figure out a schedule for the warehouse system to respond to uncertainties and changing requirements. Only with the appropriate operation in warehouse, could Shanghai retailers gain a solid footing in the highly competitive market.

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