Implementing a WMS

When selecting a WMS solution it is imperative that there is a mutual agreement on what needs to be changed, added, and interfaced to existing systems.

Step One:

Assess Current Operating Characteristics

Review the layout, ABC frequency class (the class indicates the speed of movement of the product, where A is the fastest, B the next fastest and so on) and describe the data flow in the warehouse.

Step Two:

Recognize Needs which of these functions does your warehouse need?

- > ! Receiving
- ! Put away
- ! Serial number tracking
- ! Order processing
- ! Cross docking
- > ! Replenishment
- ! Order picking
- >! Shipping
- ! Multiple warehouses
- ! Cycle counting
- ! Documents/Reports
- ! Labor monitoring
- ! Bar code compliance labeling
- ! Future growth of the system

Step Three:

Analysis Transactions

Review last year's warehouse transactions by month, to get a sense of the volume of receipts, put-aways and picks per person, per hour.

In addition, do an analysis of:

- ! Daily work detail
- > ! Distribution of orders processed per month
- ! Units shipped per month
- ! Unit storage profiles

Step Four:

Analysis Flow of Information

- ! Receiving
- > ! Storage location management
- ! Picking
- > ! Special customer processing requirements
- ! Order completion
- ! Shipping documentation

Warehouse Management Flow Chart Client places order online Client places Client places order online order online Internet Warehouse Put Away Inventory Management Control System Pick List(s) Orders are seamlessly Cross confirmed and in Receipt Docking process Order Adjustment(s) Sales Order sent Sales Order sent to wireless handheld to wireless handheld Warehouse (Pick List) (Pick List) Packing Slip **Packing Slip** Shipping labels **Shipping labels**