

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

