

STOCKS AND WAREHOUSING IN TRANSPORT LOGISTICS

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Abstract: Stocks and warehousing play pivotal roles in modern transport logistics, serving as critical nodes in supply chain management. This abstract examines their significance in ensuring efficient movement, storage, and distribution of goods across global supply chains. Effective stocks management in warehouses facilitates optimized inventory levels, reducing stockouts and minimizing carrying costs while enabling just-in-time delivery strategies. Furthermore, well-managed warehouses enhance customer satisfaction by ensuring timely order fulfillment and maintaining product availability. In terms of supply chain efficiency, warehouses mitigate risks of disruptions, facilitate consolidation and distribution, and support cost-effective inventory management practices. Strategically, stocks and warehousing provide businesses with competitive advantages through enhanced market reach, operational flexibility, and the ability to meet evolving customer demands. By exploring these aspects, this abstract underscores the critical role of stocks and warehousing in modern transport logistics and their impact on overall supply chain performance and business success.

Keywords: stock control, stock management, warehouse management, inventory management, stock optimisation, quality service, just-in-time, dropshipping, cross docking, bulk shipments

Introduction: Stock and warehouse management is one of the most important issues to take into account in logistics solutions because with a good stock management strategy you can save a lot of costs and multiply your profits. For this reason, I would like to explain how to improve inventory management and logistics warehouses.

Stock control refers to the global calculation of the products available in a logistics warehouse. Stock and inventory management is related to the organisation of the different flows of materials in a warehouse and, finally, when we talk about stock optimisation, we refer to the work aimed at improving the performance of the stored stock.

Main

part:

Stock management - inventory management encompasses several processes. On the one hand, it encompasses the task of warehouse control in order to always have stock available for all types of orders placed by suppliers or end customers; the optimisation and classification of stock together with the guarantee of product safety and the capacity to carry out stock management when products are actually removed from the warehouse.

Stock control - warehouse control or stock control refers to the tasks that a logistics company performs in order to organise, plan and control the stock of products within a warehouse so that whenever a customer makes a purchase, the order can be handled within the established time.

Stock optimisation - when we talk about stock optimisation, we are referring to knowing how to manage and achieve a complete availability of the products that are in demand without the need to have a large number of products that are not going to be sold in the short term and that we will be storing without a real need and planning and that create an unnecessary investment in inventory management.

Stock management objectives

Adapt stock levels to demand

We must know which customers we work with and the level of demand for the products in our warehouse. A product that is in high demand every day and month of the year is not the same as a product that is related to a specific season and which we do not necessarily have available all year round. It is necessary to have a correct knowledge of product demand forecasts in order to achieve correct stock management.

Quality service

A good quality service makes a difference to the consumer or end customer. If we have a good service, correct stock management, safe packaging and , the goods will arrive at their destination in optimum conditions, without breakages and within the stipulated time. Today, the world is driven by immediacy and consumers are increasingly demanding faster and more environmentally responsible deliveries. Similarly, omni-channel logistics plays a key role in our lives. Many customers buy a product online and return it in shop or vice versa. Logistics operators must be prepared for this shift in consumer shopping preferences and have the right stock control in place.

Maintain and reduce costs

To achieve this goal, more and more logistics operators are using cross docking or just-in-time strategies. The aim is to adjust the inventory stock in the warehouses as much as possible without reducing the quality of the work.

Stock Management Techniques

Just-in-time

Just-in-time corresponds to the “on-demand” mode. This means that the product is manufactured and delivered to the end consumer when the purchase is made. An example of this type is vehicles. In the past, dealers used to keep vehicles in stock, but more and more of them are being manufactured as they are sold.

Dropshipping

This is a form of selling used in the retail sector. This concept refers to when a seller does not have the product he is selling in stock and it has been purchased by a consumer. At the time of post-sale, the seller informs the manufacturer about the orders and the manufacturer prepares them for the seller to deliver them to the final consumer.

Cross docking

This term refers to the goods that enter the warehouse and are not stored at any time because they are placed in another lorry that is going to leave with goods. The only storage that may exist are areas within the warehouse where the stock that is about to leave is stacked, sorted and managed.

Bulk shipments

This method relates to bulk shipments. Bulk shipments result in less need for inventory replenishment and minimal stock management and warehousing. Bulk shipping is one of the most widely used methods of stock management in the industry.

Challenges in inventory management in a logistics warehouse

Constant change in demand and supply

There are some changes in stock and inventory management that can be foreseen such as products related to certain times of the year or products that are in demand every month regardless of the dates. But there is one trend that cannot be controlled and that is “fads” or certain peaks in demand without any justified cause. For example, there are products that multiply exponentially because they are promoted by an “influencer” or opinion leader and all logistics operators have to know how to deal with these circumstances.

Increase of stored products

The capacity of the available stock must be in harmony with the production order and with the sales of each product. Just as we have said that insufficient stock can lead to delays in the delivery of these articles with the consequent risk of losing customers; an excess of stock can lead to very large economic losses due to the unnecessary purchase of some products that may expire without having been sold and an increase in storage costs.

Traceability of stock

This process coincides with the tracking of the different phases and processes followed by the products in stock. For example, when we move goods from one warehouse to another or when certain products we have in stock are sold. All these processes have to be well recorded at all times.

Know and identify market trends

It is important to know what is “in” in the market or what is commonly bought. Trends can change from year to year or seasonally. An example we have seen in recent years coincides with the COVID-19 pandemic. We can observe how ecommerce had an exponential leap and the sales of staple products multiplied.

It is therefore essential for good warehouse management to anticipate and forecast market trends. It is necessary to take into account the products that are most in demand by season, assess sales from other years, observe whether the product is constantly growing, know the year-on-year deviations, promotions and advertising investment.

Conclusion: stocks and warehousing are integral components of transport logistics, playing vital roles in ensuring the smooth flow of goods through supply chains. By effectively managing stocks in warehouses, businesses can optimize inventory levels, minimize costs, and enhance customer satisfaction through timely deliveries and product availability. Warehouses also serve as strategic assets, enabling companies to mitigate supply chain risks, consolidate shipments for cost savings, and expand market reach by positioning inventory closer to customers. As logistics continue to evolve with technological advancements and changing consumer expectations, the importance of efficient stocks and warehousing practices remains paramount for businesses seeking competitive advantage and sustained growth in global markets. Embracing innovative solutions and best practices in stocks and warehousing will continue to drive efficiency, responsiveness, and profitability across the transport logistics sector.

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