

Optimizing space and inventory accuracy through Radio Frequency (RF) and bar coding technology

- Warehouse Requirements Planning
- Facility Layout
- Equipment Selection
- Warehouse Management Systems

The concept of today's warehouse is dramatically changing. It is becoming the key linchpin for customer satisfaction. Accurate inventories both in quantity and costing is a must. Capabilities to rapidly receive, store, package, and ship must be available. Ability to support Just-in-time (JIT) inventory concepts is mandatory. In some cases, warehouses have become more of a cross-docking facility instead of a storage capability. Customer demands for lower costs, improved customer service, and rapid response times are reshaping corporate distribution patterns. Companies are trying to dispel the traditional warehousing connotation that storage means stoppage.

Warehouse Requirements Planning

A place for everything and everything in its place.

- What is stored and how much?
- For how long?
- Risk of Pilferage?
- Risk of Spoilage?
- Cross-docking capability?
- Degree of automation?
- How much value-added activity will be performed?
- Is outsourcing a consideration?
- What are the key measurements of performance?
- Is it more cost effective for me to manage the distribution operation, or should I outsource it to a Third Party Logistics provider?

These are some of the strategic decisions that our seasoned logistics professionals at JHolcombe & Associates can help you analyze and consider.

In addition we can help you evaluate your current warehousing system for:

- Cleanliness
- Automation
- Cube utilization
- Receiving operations
- Repacking operations
- Shipping staging
- Customer service
- Activity
- Appropriate equipment
- FIFO rotation
- Forward picking
- Product touches
- Safety

Facility Layout

Organizations all over the world are looking at cutting inventory related costs. Making the best use of limited facilities becomes a major factor in achieving these cost savings.

The following need to be addressed:

- Size (square foot and cube).
- Safety and Environmental requirements.
- Estimated traffic volumes.
- Operational scenarios.
- Flow simulations.
- Personnel requirements.

All are key to designing and implementing a "re-invented warehouse". We use our proven extensive checklists developed for receiving, cross-docking, storage/staging, order picking, work-in-process, packaging, and shipping functions to help you design the optimum warehouse for your needs. JHolcombe & Associates are experienced in conducting simulations to validate expected material flows. We also have years of operational experience in designing and operating automated warehouses.

Warehousing and Material Control, cont'd.

Equipment Selection

- Conveyers
- Loading dock levelers
- Vertical carousels
- Horizontal Carousel
- Powered lift trucks
- Non-powered industrial equipment
- Robotics
- Overhead cranes
- Self-guided vehicles (SGVs)
- Bar code scanners, readers & printers
- Radio Frequency communications & identification equipment

There are over 100 vendors offering these products today...some of which will meet your needs. But which one? Because of our vast operational and consulting experiences, we can help you sort through the volumes of data so that you can make the right choice for your particular needs.

Warehouse Management Systems

Like warehouse equipment, there is a myriad of warehouse management systems on the market. Which one is best for you? We can help you develop system requirements and source selection criteria so that you can select the optimum system to fit your operations and your budget. Our relationships with quality vendors will result in on-site demonstrations, visits to facilities with like systems, and an integrated approach to system installation, testing, and certification.

Count on Us

By redesigning warehouse operations, most studies indicate savings in the neighborhood of 30-50% of labor costs, coupled with inventory accuracy approaching 100% which yields less money in inventory and 20-70% shorter order fulfillment cycle times. JHolcombe & Associates can help you reach those goals.

Credentials

- Defined requirements, selected products and vendors, and managed installation of vertical carousels, rail-mounted, movable aisle storage systems and wire-guided AGV systems for McDonnell Douglas at Kennedy Space Center, FL. Increased storage capacity in existing facilities by 42%.
- For Naval Supply Center Jacksonville, FL, installed RF-driven paperless freight management systems for both inbound and outbound cargo. Reduced labor requirements by 35% in a distribution facility stocking 225,000 SKUs and filling over 10,000 customer orders daily.
- Developed a re-designed national distribution network for Frigidaire's finished goods; developed a consolidation plan to reduce the number of regional and factory warehouses, strategically source freight carriers and concentrated freight movements through three national distribution centers; project savings totaled \$26M per year.
- Conducted a competitive WMS source selection for a large consumer electronics manufacturer; included plans for complete modernization of the manufacturer's national parts distribution center.

