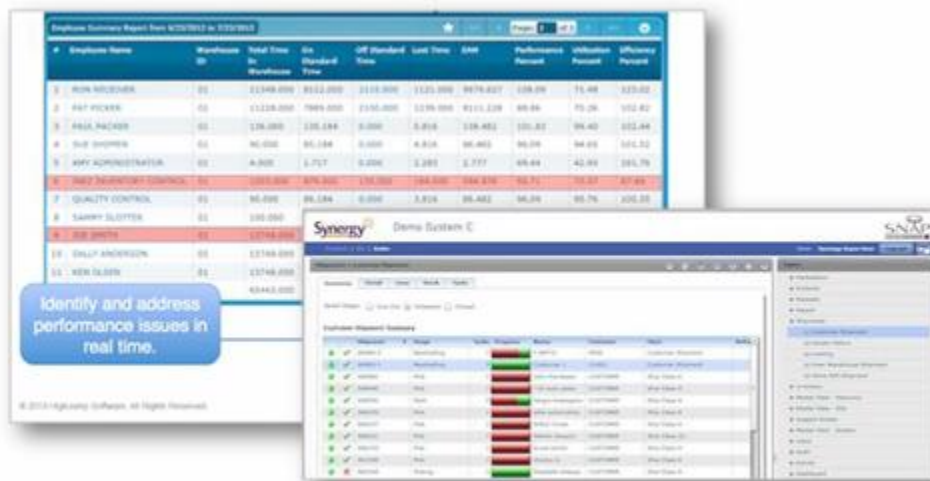


Harnessing WMS Reports to Improve Production, Processes

Written by **Babette DuPriest**
Wed, Mar 26, 2014



After harnessing automated data collection solutions, the next step is knowing how to properly analyze all the key information. Using a warehouse management system, supply chain leaders can transform raw data into information that can be used to assess the performance of the entire warehouse and parties on either side of it.

According to Software Advice, one critical report that supply chain managers should be running is on vendors and suppliers. Using this information, an organization can not only improve inventory control, but also measure the performance of suppliers. Companies can track how long certain items take to stock, how often a supplier is late on shipments and how often an order is incomplete or damaged.

Analyzing these reports can also help a company adjust its orders to improve inventory and make sure that a supplier's poor performance does not impact customer orders. If it becomes clear that working with the supplier is hurting the organization's performance, it could be time to discuss placing penalties in the contract or even looking for a new supplier, Software Advice stated.

Tracking Worker Performance in the Warehouse

A WMS report can also analyze the performance of employees picking, packing and shipping materials. This data can be used to set benchmarks for employee performance, update training programs and even be used in redesigns of the warehouse. Because automated data collection will log this information in real time, it is very simple to see how quickly an order can be pulled and what orders, employees or sections of the warehouse cause a delay in the process.

Software Advice explains that this information about employee performance can be used to identify negative behavior, such as abusing break times, or reward an employee who surpasses expectations. It can also identify instances where an entire department is suddenly working less efficiently, suggesting a recent change somewhere in the warehouse has had a negative impact downstream.

Utilizing automated data collection and generating reports using WMS can provide some of the fastest and most accurate information regarding warehouse performance. The information can even be used outside of the warehouse and provide benefits to departments throughout the enterprise. As companies rely more on big data to make informed decisions, analyzing processes, procedures and performance in the warehouse will be integral to the future success of the entire organization.