

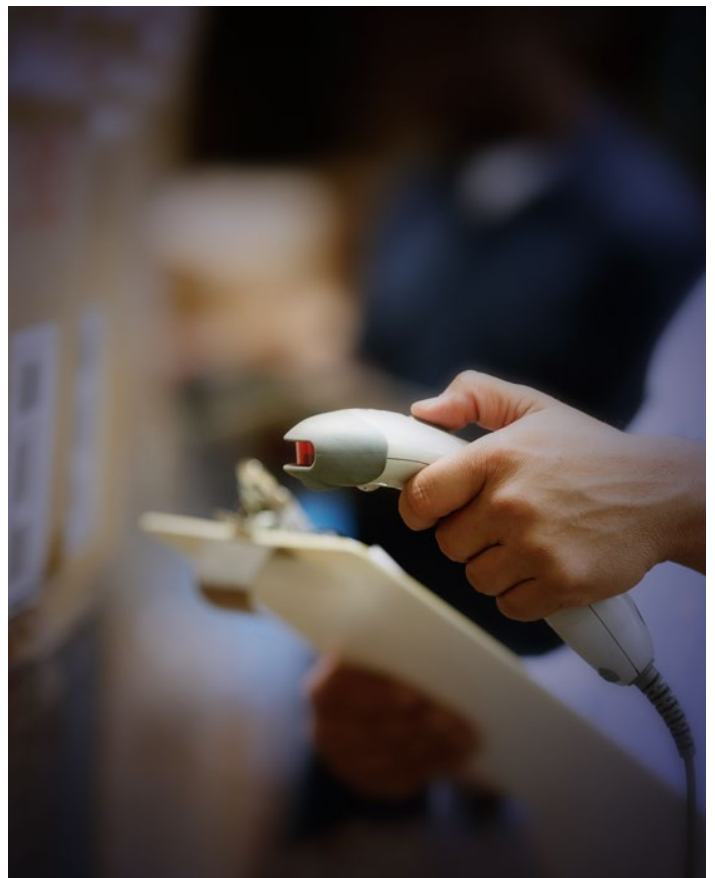


Warehouse Openings: Making The Process More Efficient

Functional and efficient warehouses are a key component of any supply chain. Your warehouse serves as an important midway point between your manufacturer and your end customer, a place where your organization keeps inventory organized and prepares for shipments.

You will need to expand your warehouse network as your supply chain grows. Opening new warehouses at strategic locations will help you get your product to your customers quickly and can help you cut down on long-term shipping costs.

Opening a new warehouse is challenging, involving high implementation costs and a time-consuming process. Many companies still need help opening new warehouses because of how long the process can take. At Unilog, we've leveraged technology to simplify the process and get warehouses up and running in a faster and much more cost-efficient way.



Warehouse Openings The Unilog Way

Unilog has leveraged remote communication technologies to get warehouses up and running quickly with minimal additional costs. In the past, warehouses often required a development team to open, which was time-consuming and costly.

Additionally, management teams had to visit the warehouse in person for several days to get things up and running. There were several days of training, and it took time for employees to adjust to new systems and terminology. This extra time slowed the entire organization down and could be very expensive. It also meant that new warehouses could take several weeks or even months to be fully functional.

At Unilog, we've taken steps to speed this process up. Remote meetings and training sessions cut back or even eliminate travel for warehouse openings. Additionally, we use our Logivice system across all of our warehouses. Using the same system every time reduces confusion and makes for an easier setup.

Let's discuss all the steps you need to cover if you plan to open a new warehouse smoothly and effectively.

1. Initiate warehouse opening

The first step in opening a warehouse is getting ready to start working. For this, you need to develop a specific and detailed business plan.

In this case, we can help you in two ways:

- a. You can start working with us.
- b. We can help you improve your existing warehouse by implementing plants to drive new customer activity.

2. Schedule a meeting with officials

The next step is to organize a 1-hour meeting with the customer's operations manager or warehouse manager.

This is required because the success of a warehouse opening greatly depends on clear and straightforward internal processes. Therefore, you need to ensure that during this meeting, you'll discuss the features of the required system and ensure all the internal processes run smoothly.

3. Create a System Requirements Specification (SRS) document

This document helps business owners define the purpose of their products, describe their features, and discuss all the related details. Creating the SRS document will allow you to share your perspective on your warehouse's operational environment and performance requirements. Keep in mind that this process usually takes 2-4 hours.

4. Get ready for the system implementation

This is one of the most crucial steps for an effective warehouse opening. The Warehouse Management System (WMS) aims to optimize the supply chain process and control all the steps of internal processes, such as receiving, picking, putting away, picking, packing inventory tracking, and order fulfillment. The process usually takes between 1 hour and half a day. However, working efficiently, handling shipments, and reducing costs are vital.

5. Run warehouse training

Once you get the warehouse management system ready, it's time to run the simulation. You must ensure that your staff has enough practical experience to perform warehouse operations under complex circumstances. So, practice warehouse processes and run a full simulation to ensure the warehouse is ready for opening. The warehouse training will take about 30-60 minutes.

6. Open the warehouse

And finally, after following all the five steps we've just discussed, the warehouse is ready to get active and start operating.



[Logivice](#) serves as a digital control tower for your entire supply chain.

This means that once the warehouse is set up, key stakeholders can use Logivice to track the location of products or shipments as they move through the supply chain. This system also makes it much easier to manage the warehouse remotely and prevent missed shipments.



The Importance of Warehouses

Warehouses are a crucial part of any supply chain strategy for various reasons. Here's why efficient warehouse management is so important.

Better Inventory Management

One reason why it's so important to have high-performing warehouses is for efficient inventory management. Your warehouse team plays a huge role in keeping your inventory organized and ready for shipment. You can even use your warehouse to build stockpiles of key products. This is more important now than ever as the supply chain is currently very volatile.

Having your inventory stored in a central location makes tracking easier. Modern IoT technology makes it easier than ever to track your inventory automatically. Sensors within the warehouse can monitor tags or barcodes to determine when a product has entered or left the facility.

Implementing IoT technology at your warehouse gives you better supply chain visibility and helps your warehouse team work more efficiently. Instead of manually processing each product, they can spend time on more complex warehouse management tasks to help your system stay productive.

Faster Delivery Times

A strategically placed network of warehouses can also help you speed up your delivery times. A well-managed warehouse system can reduce the number of transfers between distribution centers before the product makes it to the end customer.

Today's customers expect speedy delivery times. Implementing an effective warehouse strategy is one of the best ways to exceed your customers' delivery expectations and improve your reputation. A well-developed warehouse network also makes it easier to give accurate delivery estimates and set customer expectations.

Returns Processing

Warehouses are also very important for returns processing. When your warehouses are strategically placed in key markets, it reduces shipping costs and times for customers who need to make returns. When returns make their way back to the warehouse, your team can process the products back into your inventory or recycle them if they are no longer usable.

Maximizing Warehouse Efficiency

In addition to implementing technology like Unilog's Logivice software or IoT systems, there are many things you can do to help your warehouses run more efficiently. Most importantly, you'll need a well-designed floor layout. Your floor layout should account for machinery like forklifts and promote efficient walking patterns for your team. Consider which products are in the highest demand and are shipped most often when selecting locations.

It's also essential to keep your products clearly labeled to avoid confusion. For particularly large warehouses, it can help to divide the building into zones and use IoT technology to determine which zone products are in. Finally, warehouses should use supply and demand tracking to remove an unsold product that takes up excess space. While having a stockpile is very helpful, that stockpile should be limited to specific products that experience high levels of demand.

On top of internal warehouse efficiency, it's also essential to ensure that the buildings are strategically placed, especially if your global supply chain is global. When deciding where to build new warehouses, you'll need to consider the locations of your customers and manufacturers and the shipping options in the area. Additionally, you'll need to consider taxes and regulations in the city, state, or country where you plan to open a warehouse.

Opening new warehouses is a crucial part of growing your distribution network. At Unilog, we're using modern technology to make warehouse openings faster, more accessible, and more affordable. We can speed up the process with remote technology and a comprehensive management system that we can apply to any new warehouses. If you're looking for comprehensive supply chain management solutions for your organization, contact Unilog today to see how we can help.

