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Reap The Benefits Of Logistics Management

By Trevor Marshall

It is important to know the processes that a company is involved in and master them for a more efficient production output. Logistics management, on the other hand, is a critical component to achieve business goals. This is defined as the organized movement of materials, and sometimes, people. The term logistics was originally associated with the military. Eventually, the term has gradually spread to cover business activities and processes. In terms of transportation, for example, this is a vital cost-containment key that one should consider. If a company is working with carriers and couriers, the products should be transported in a timely, safe and efficient manner, thereby managing company costs. There are certain companies and establishments who offer logistics management services. If you want your company to run in a timely and efficient manner, you have to choose a company who provides logistics management services and make sure that they can meet your business' transportation needs. You must coordinate and tie together your firm's logistics system. It is good to consider the five elements or functions of logistics and how important they are to your company.

Business logistics is a series of separate activities or functions which all fall under a business firm's logistics umbrella.

– customer service – demand forecasting – documentation flow – inter-plant movements – inventory management – order processing – packaging – parts and service support – plant and warehouse site selection – production scheduling purchasing returned products

1. Supply

Consider the supply of materials that you have as this would help meet your self-imposed quota for the company to profit.

2. Transportation

This is where logistics management applies. A company should have the transportation services needed to move the products and deliver them in a timely and efficient manner to the customers.

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3. Facilities

Different companies employ different services according to their needs. Each of them has a different facility which helps produce the products and services which they eventually offer to customers. These facilities should be tailor-made and fit the client's and customer's specifications.

4. Services

>From customer service, to delivering an order on time, to resolving order-related problems, a company should employ a logistics management service provider which will provide all of these services.

5. Management and Administration

This is an aspect of logistics management which is common to all organizations. A well-balanced and knowledgeable staff and leaders make for a better, service-oriented company. In relation to this, here are the important factors that you should consider when employing a logistics management service provider that will best benefit your company:

6. Inbound Transportation

– You should choose a logistics management service provider who will give out quotes for the inbound transportation costs of components – This might include the delivery of individual components to your production line – For a better price comparison, you may also ask if they can deal with clients who buy some or all of their components from a particular supplier – You can look for cost and time frame quotations that you can use to consider the service provider that is most cost-effective

7. Outbound Transportation

Outbound transportation refers to the carriers who meet the customer's needs. Different clients need various freight and carrier services, and a logistics management service provider should be able to provide these individual needs. The deal can either be on an over-all operational basis, or on a per-shipment basis. This provides a comprehensive solution for a company's primary need for logistics. Choose a logistics management service provider who will provide rate comparisons from different couriers to meet and handle the customer's goals. The main point here is that you need to have somebody to handle and ship out your main products in a safe and timely manner.

8. Troubleshooting Capabilities

A logistics management service provider should know how to handle unusual and day-to-day complications and problems. If a customer has a specific shipping need, would they be able to deliver and solve the problem? Should a serious delivery or shipping problem arise, they should be able to troubleshoot and come up with the perfect solution and at the same time soothe a customer's ruffled feathers.

9. Keeping Customers Informed

The customers have the right to know the details about a particular order shipment. They should be informed of when the products were shipped, how it was shipped and who shipped it. Some logistics management service provider give out their contact numbers directly to their client's customers. This would avoid a pointing of fingers should problems arise. Also, there is online tracking information available for most couriers and carriers. All in all, you have to choose a logistics management service provider that would fit your company's needs to a tee so that both of you will reap the benefits in the end.

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Electronic Logistics – The Money Saving Solutions

By Rossen Iankov

The concept of conventional logistics covers all activities relating to the procurement, transport, transshipment and storage of goods. Logistics as generally understood is concerned particularly with material flow (raw materials, interim and final products), but also involves providing companies with services and information.

Nowadays the development of electronic information and communication technologies affects all spheres of life. Naturally, it influences significantly economic life, including logistics. As a result, nowadays it is possible to speak about electronic logistics as extremely perspective field for further development.

On researching the problem of electronic logistics, it is primarily necessary to dwell upon the methods that are traditionally used in the related researches. Basically, it is possible to use phone inquiry, face-to-face interviews with companies implementing electronic logistics in their business. Also it is possible to interview management consultants and IT suppliers.

Obviously, nowadays electronic information and communication technologies are widely used in the field of logistics. As a rule, it is widely used in buying and selling transactions, as well as material follow transactions. It is necessary to point out that logistics services providers use electronic logistics wider than companies operating in the field of manufacturing and trade.

In the current a situation, the advantages of electronic logistics are evident since it creates new operating models that provides a company with a competitive advantage compared to the companies using conventional logistics. It also permits to develop efficient management of larger entities and correct information in constantly changing market situation.

Nonetheless, it is necessary to emphasize that electronic logistics is a relatively new field and it makes its first steps in the contemporary business. In such a situation, certain obstacles and challenges, the

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companies implementing electronic logistics face, are quite natural. Among these obstacles and challenges may be singled out the following: scarce financial resources for investments, lack of capabilities of network parties, lack of standards, challenges in integrating inter-company information systems.

However, electronic logistics is still quite popular due to the perspective of business process re-engineering skills, since it provides the possibility to use technologies to support business processes.

Thus, electronic logistics is a very perspective field that needs further research in order to provide better opportunities to its proper implementing and wide use.

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