



3 Strategies for Increasing Productivity in the Warehouse

Saving Time, Reducing Labor Costs, and Eliminating Waste



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Warehouses have struggled with the competing pressures of demand for lower costs and faster, more accurate service for years. The explosion of e-commerce activity over the past several years (and particularly in 2020) has increased demand for warehouse operators and logistics services, but many of these organizations continue to struggle with inefficient processes and a reduced or restricted workforce.

These warehouse operators are being asked to provide better service at a lower cost, which means the existing workforce has to become more productive. Simply hiring a small army of temporary employees is no longer a viable solution to address these logistics challenges.

The challenges aren't restricted to speed or throughput. Inefficient warehouse operations also suffer from accuracy problems. Errors occur because these warehouses are not using the right tools and systems. Solutions like remote workstations that offer scanning and printing functionality at the point of activity can help these organizations address both productivity and accuracy, and do so in an affordable and sustainable way.

Below, we have outlined **three important strategies** to help warehouses boost productivity, while supporting increased demand with a reduced or restricted workforce.

⇒ Strategy 1: Less Walking Means More Capacity

As anyone who has been in a warehouse knows, far too much time and energy is wasted by warehouse staff (up to four hours per day) walking to fixed stations to look up information, enter data, and print labels as part of manual receiving, shipping, and picking processes—not to mention the time spent crisscrossing the building if there is a question or a mistake. By the end of a typical shift, employees may have walked as much as 5 to 10 miles each day. In some larger, high-velocity operations, employees can walk as much as 10 miles per day. All of this wasteful walking may burn calories, but it costs your company time, accuracy, and capacity.

This inefficient use of time prevents employees from doing their jobs, ultimately cutting into your ability to move inventory and respond to customer requests. If you can't keep up with current capacity expectations, you will lose customers to competitors who can keep up.

How can you solve this problem? By giving your workers the tools they need to complete tasks no matter where they are on the warehouse floor. With a well-equipped mobile workstation, employees can access data and applications, scan barcodes, and print labels without having to walk back and forth to fixed-position computers and printers.





Strategy 2:

Fewer Labeling Errors Saves Time and Money

Labeling errors are often at the root of many warehouse accuracy and efficiency problems. That is because while labels are treated as a commodity, they are a critical component of an automation system. When the wrong label lands on the wrong product, it can cause a series of errors that cascade across the entire supply chain.

Traditional labeling processes are typically inefficient and error-prone because large batches of labels are printed in advanced for multiple orders at one time. Workers then have to take those batches of labels and attempt to match them up with the right products.

This antiquated approach often results in the wrong items being received, picked and/or shipped to the wrong locations. It is an easy way to lose money, time, resources and, ultimately, customers. Costly and complex returns/reverse logistics processes only compound the problem.

A mobile workstation eliminates these errors because labels can be printed quickly at the point of activity, and on a just-in-time basis. Without batch printing label accuracy can be exponentially increased across the entire warehouse.

⇒ Strategy 3:

All-In-One Solutions Enable Efficient Inbound/Outbound Operations

Studies have show that improving efficiencies within the receiving and shipping process can increase capacity by as much as 50%, while improving inventory and order accuracy. Any improvements in efficiency in these areas can provide the capacity boost warehouses need to meet rapidly increasing demand.

Why are the improvements so dramatic? In part, because warehouse workers can spend as much as 50% of their time walking to and from static work stations. Not only does that waste time, it also fatigues employees and can lead to even more errors.

Powered, mobile workstations can eliminate these wasted steps and add back hours of productivity per worker, in addition to improving accuracy and reducing the risk of injury.

Mobile workstations can cut the receipt process in half while also reducing shipping errors, which ensures order accuracy. A best-in-class combination of the Newcastle NB series mobile workstations with Lithium Iron Phosphate batteries, Zebra tablet and/or handheld computers, scanners, and printers can enable 24/7 operation.

These high configurable mobile cart solutions reduce fatigue by streamlining processes, resulting in less walking throughout the warehouse during a shift. The mobile workstations are built with ergonomics in mind, which further reduces employee fatigue.

As a result, warehouse staff can complete more work in less time with these mobile, all-in-one solutions. These systems also further promote employee safety because fewer employees are interacting with a single machine, and workers do not have to crowd around fixed-position work stations just to input data or generate labels.



Mobile Cart Solutions Boost Productivity

Mobile carts (equipped with scanners, printers, and mobile computing devices) can be used to implement all three of these productivity-enhancing strategies in a warehouse.

These ergonomic solutions reduce fatigue by eliminating the unnecessary walking to and from fixed-position computers and printers during a shift. This also helps employees complete more work using reliable, automated all-in-one technology assets.

By enabling employees to collect data, scan barcodes, and print labels at the point of activity, mobile workstations also increase accuracy. With faster and more accurate picking, packing and shipping operations, warehouses can increase capacity without an additional investment in labor or floor space.



Proven Technology Solutions

Liberty Systems and Newcastle Systems offer mobile power workstations that make every warehouse worker a SUPER worker. Our products are designed not just for high efficiency, but also with worker safety in mind.

Our mobile workstations are flexible, configurable and scalable to meet a wide variety of warehouse needs, and offer a proven return on investment in time and energy savings. You can estimate the potential savings our technology can generate in your warehouse with our free, online ROI calculator.

Do you want to learn more about how to leverage automation and mobility to increase productivity? Contact Liberty Systems for a quote, and learn how we can help you to create your own powerful lineup of workplace mobility power systems today.



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