



The ACA Group is an alliance of operations and supply chain experts.

Operational Performance Improvement Newsletter

Strategies for Improving Business Performance

June, 2016

 Send to a Colleague

Welcome

Hard to believe that we are half-way through the year! Are you on track with your 2016 plans? If not, it is a great time to jump start your plans and get ahead of the curve while much of your competition takes off on summer vacation.

We've seen that inventory has been our most popular topic over the last several years; therefore, we picked a few of our favorite articles on this topic from 2016 for this month's newsletter. We'd love your feedback. For example, which inventory management planning method works best for your organization? Take a look at our article to learn about the options...

If you have questions or would like to learn more about how you can work with us, please contact us.

Enjoy your summer!

Inventory Management Remains Core to Success

By Lisa Anderson, MBA, CSCP



No matter how many engaging conversations I have with clients, contacts and trade groups about emerging supply chain trends, the less exciting topic of inventory management oftentimes can deliver a higher value than the latest and greatest most-talked about trend. As the Programs chair of APICS Ventura chapter said when

The ACA Group Partner Spotlight



requesting this topic for a recent speech, inventory management is core to success and remains a timeless topic.

This prompted me to think about what I see across all types of clients: Whether a \$5 million fast-growing manufacturer in the building products industry, an \$80 million dollar food processing company or a multi-billion dollar aerospace company, I've found inventory management to be vital to bottom line results. Three of the top reasons inventory should be seen as core to success include:

1. Inventory accuracy - If you cannot find the product, you cannot ship it. It can be as simple as that; however, it often goes much

[Read the rest of the article](#)

Which Inventory Management Planning Method Is Best?

By Lisa Anderson, MBA, CSCP

I've incorporated three planning method options into a presentation on inventory management best practices. I've been receiving more and more requests for this topic as executives experience the impact poor inventory management can have on an organization - it can stunt growth, weaken profits, tie up cash unnecessarily and negatively impact operational efficiency.



I run across conflicts frequently among these options. Unfortunately, the method is often dictated. Resources are not valued. And results struggle. On the other hand, my best clients view these as complementary options to be used at the "right" time in the "right" situation for the "right" products. Briefly reviewing these methods:

1. Lean: In Lean circles, planning is seen as

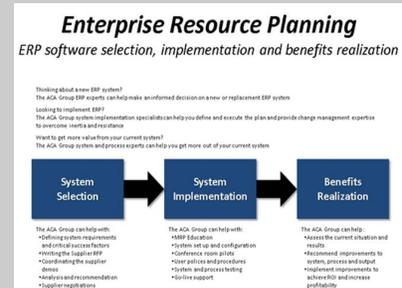
James P. Strong, CPIM, CPM, CSCP

Focused on "Supply Side" management, a strategy for improving profitability and competitive advantage.

Jim Strong is an independent consultant and trainer. He has over 20 years management and consulting experience, and has product and process knowledge in pharmaceuticals, electronics, plastic and rubber molding, metal fabrication, and aerospace products. [more](#)

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- Writing the Supplier RFP
- Coordinating the supplier demos

a Kanban process. In essence, the demand is pulled through the system by the customer. For example, when a customer consumes 5

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- Analysis and recommendation
- Supplier negotiations

[Learn more about our ERP services and how to get your analysis.](#)

We also have countless articles on ERP. Grab a few tips on our [articles page](#).

The ACA Group:

Additional Resources

Access [The ACA Group](#) library of materials on [Enterprise Resource Planning](#), [Organizational Development](#), [Lean Enterprise](#) and [Supply Chain Management](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

Lean Enterprise Workshop
September 19, 2016
Santa Clarita, CA

APICS 2016
September 25-27, 2016
Washington, D. C.

Mark Your Calendars:

APICS-IE Fall Executive Panel & Networking Symposium
October 29, 2016
Corona, Calif.



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<http://www.theacagroup.com/>
2120 Highland Oaks Drive
Arcadia, CA 91006

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626-836-9261