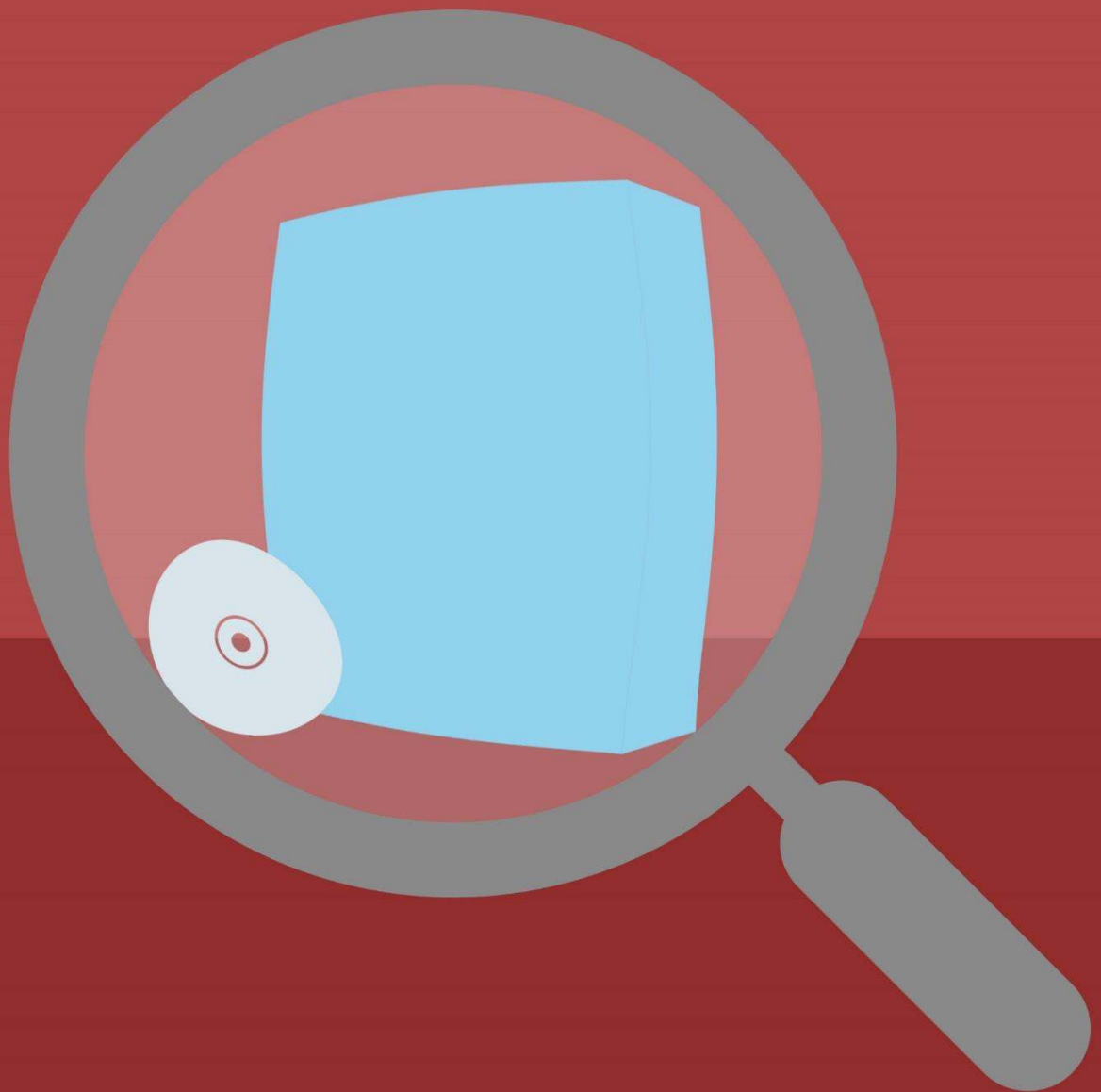


# WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A WMS

11 Factors to Consider When Selecting a New WMS



A Guide By



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# Why Evaluate New WMS Options?

As your business grows and adapts to industry changes it is important that your supply chain technology can do the same.

Many supply chain businesses currently utilize solutions that are outdated or do not perform all of the necessary functions their business may need to realize maximum efficiency and profitability.

It is crucial to evaluate warehouse management software (WMS) solutions available to ensure that the best WMS for your business will promote growth, efficiency and profitability.

Ask yourself the following questions, to find a better fit with your new warehouse management solution



## 1. System Flexibility

- Can the system handle any activity fluctuations your facility may experience in such as those seen during holiday seasons?
- Are you able to make customizations to processes, documentation, etc. on a customer-by-customer basis?
- Is the system scalable enough to grow with your business without significant additional cash outlay?

## 2. System Reliability

- Can the system handle a high volume of activity?
- During peak activity times would the system be more likely to experience stalling and significant lag?
- If issues arise is the vendor's support staff available 24/7 to reduce downtime?



## 3. User friendliness

- Is the WMS designed to be easy to learn for new and temporary employees?
- Can users customize screens and views to increase productivity?
- Does the vendor have training programs in place to onboard new employees more efficiently?

## 4. Real Time Data Availability

- Can all information be accessed in real time?
- Can your staff create real time reports based on all system fields in a variety of formats?
- Can these reports be customized on a customer-by-customer basis?
- Is it easy to share reports with staff and customers as needed? Can this process be automated?
- Can data be accessed using both desktop and mobile devices worldwide?

## 5. Product Traceability

- Will your business have full audit trail access?
- Can the system track finished product ingredients to their point of origin?
- Is the system able to react quickly and effectively to recall situations?
- Can all handling within your facility be recorded including handling by staff, inspections, temperature readings, etc.?



## 6. Government Regulatory Compliance

- Is the system designed to meet your customer's required regulations such as:
  - FDA
  - DQSA/DSCSA
  - FDA CFR Part 11
  - LBMA
  - And more...
- Can this system help provide proof of compliance to customers and third party auditors?
- Does the WMS vendor provide validation services?
- Is the system capable of including specified verbiage and contract terms if required?
- Can the system produce documentation such as HAZMAT paperwork on the facility floor?

## 7. Billing

- Can this system capture billing instances in real time using RF devices?
- Does this billing system capture and bill for all value added service fees?
- Can you view past and future billing to assist in revenue forecasting?
- Can this system create custom contracts and rates to best fit your customer's needs?
- Is it labor intensive to create, audit and send invoices and contracts to customers?



## 8. Technology Investment & ROI

- Are the monthly and/or yearly service and support and maintenance fees affordable? Do these fees provide you with the most current versions available?
- Are upgrades to the software billed as additional cost? Are professional service fees for the upgrades needed for the upgrades?
- Will any customizations to your software carry through to the latest upgrade or will this require additional cost for development?
- Can this solution provide your business with the expected cost savings and profitability increases?
- How long is the initial ROI expected to take?

## 9. Database Licenses

- Are you able to add/remove licenses as needed? When adding licenses is the cost of the license reasonable?
- Consider database license type. Is the license Microsoft or Oracle? Have you considered all additional costs for this?
- Are these fees in addition to the cost of the license?



## 10. Workflow Enabled System

- Is the system built using a workflow based platform?
- Can you easily customize business processes using workflow rather than making changes to software code?
- Is the workflow platform simple enough to be accessed and edited by your staff or is a software developer required?
- Does the workflow reduce labor costs and increase efficiency and accuracy as expected?



## 11. Technology Platform

- Does the system rely on outdated technology?
- Was this WMS developed “from the ground up” or is it a collection of various software technologies acquired by the vendor and combined into one system?
- Does the system rely on technology that is likely to be discontinued in the next few years?
- Has the software vendor provided a product roadmap to show you future plans for development? Do these plans fit with your company’s operational and technical vision and needs?

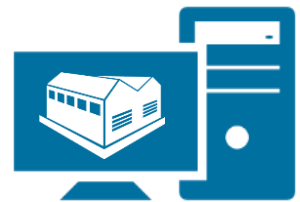
# Conclusion

There are many warehouse management systems currently on the market today and most include the same basic features. In a WMS, a key consideration is not simply whether the system has the features your business needs, it is HOW the features work.

- Can you operate key features easily without numerous clicks?
- Do you have to perform multiple steps to perform simple tasks?
- Does the system require multiple log-ins and passwords, wasting your valuable time?
- Will the system still require a significant amount of manual data entry?

Using state-of-the-art warehouse management software technology can help to elevate your business. Selecting the right WMS can help make your business more competitive and profitable.

Isn't that what technology  
is supposed to do?



For a free technology assessment of your business, contact Datex today. Our experts will help you evaluate your current needs and explain how technology can help improve your operations and potential profitability



## About Datex

Datex provides flexible, reliable supply chain technology solutions to help make businesses more profitable, including supply chain software, mobility solutions, professional services and mobile device management. In business for over 35 years, Datex has a wealth of experience in helping companies across the world meet these critical business challenges.

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