Nine Sure Signs That it's Time to Reslot

It's been proven that a properly slotted warehouse drives down operation costs and improves distribution productivity by 8% to 15%, and can yield space savings up to 30%. Yet it isn't always easy to tell that you need to reslot your warehouse because the signs aren't always immediately visible. Unless you actually do a hits and movement analysis, map it out on a drawing, or spend time following pickers around, it's very easy to overlook the true opportunity of slotting and underestimate the impact that it can have on productivity.

To help you determine whether the time is right, here are 9 signs that may indicate you need to reslot your facility:

Excessive Replenishments:

You have an increasing amount of replenishments in relation to lines picked, as indicated by a WMS transaction file or a manual log.

Excessive Pick Travel:

You see an excessive amount of travel time or observe backtracking in your warehouse. You may also notice that pickers are frequently traveling into and out of other zones or aisles.

Damages:

You've had a spike in damages or you see a pattern of certain item types being damaged.

Self-routing:

Pickers are choosing their own routes to pick items because they think they "know better" (for example, how to build the best stacking pallet).

Excessive Handling Time:

You experience a spike in missed shipping times or observe an increase in order cycle times.

Ratio of Pickers to Replenishers:

Look at historical data to determine if your staffing ratio is changing and may be impacting order fulfillment.

Dirt:

Walk along the pick path. Do you see dust and dirt on top of products in high value locations?

Inventory Profile:

If your inventory profile has changed since your facility was designed (a decrease in SKUs or a change in turns, for example), you may now have underutilized capacity or may be experiencing a space crunch.

Omni-Channel Distribution:

A new distribution model that impacts order profiles or ship types can also require changes in capacity, pick line configuration, and location assignments.

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Let TZA help you to see how you can use slotting tools, technology and best practices to boost your distribution efficiency and drive down costs. Contact us at **info@tza.com** or **800-229-3450** to determine the best slotting strategy for your facilities.