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#### **12 Standard Principles of Inventory and Forecasting**

**Thomas L. Freese, Principal** Freese & Associates, Inc.





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#### **Twelve Steps**

- Inventory
- Carrying costs
- Concepts
- Make-to-order or stock
- A B C
- Accuracy

- Cycle counting
- Reordering
- Valuation
- Safety stocks
- Demand Variability
- Inventory Reduction



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# Pareto Principle "the 80:20 rule"



- "A minority of input produces the majority of results."
- Vilfredo Pareto was an Italian economist who, in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, studied the distribution of wealth in a variety of countries.
- The 80:20 rule originated when he discovered a common phenomenon: about 80% of the wealth in most countries was controlled by a consistent minority -- about 20% of the people. Pareto called this a "predictable imbalance." His observation eventually became known as either the "80:20 rule" or "Pareto's Principle".
- The 80:20 rule has been expanded far since it's first economic use. While one might quibble about the 80% or 20% (it is sometimes 60:40 or 90:10) the insight is broadly applied to leadership and management.
- The "80:20 rule" has become one of the best known "leadership shorthand terms" reflecting the notion that most of the results (of a life, of a program, of a financial campaign) come from a minority.



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#### **Inventory: The Asset No One Wants!**





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### **Inventory Management**

- Inventory and its Purpose
- Push & Pull Models
- Inventory Classifications
- Customer Service & Safety Stocks
- Inventory Carrying Costs
- Economic Order Quantities
- Dupont Model
- Postponement



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### **Things Happen Planning Helps**









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### **Dupont Model**

Inventories impact financial performance in at least two ways: 1.) net profit margin and 2.) return on assets or return on investment

- Net Profit
- Asset Turnover
- **Return On Assets**
- Financial Leverage
- Return on Equity





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# EOQ **Economic Order Quantity**





identifies



**Order Qty** 









the lowest total cost

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# **Economic Order Quantity**



Where:

**P** = Cost of placing an order (total ordering & receiving costs)

- **D** = Annual demand
- C = Total inventory carrying costs as a %
- V = Cost of a unit of inventory



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# **Inventory Carrying Costs**

#### Inventory Carrying Cost Category

- Capital Costs
- Storage Space Costs
- Inventory Service Costs
- Inventory Risk Costs

#### Inventory Carrying Cost Components

- Inventory investment
- Warehouses
- Plant Warehouses
- Field Warehouses
- Other Warehousing
- Insurance
- Liability
- Obsolescence
- Damage
- Shrinkage



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One approach: use inventory to hide the problems.....



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# Keep inventory low so that the problems can be identified and solved.



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#### **Pull Inventory**

# Pull inventory systems "Draw" products through the supply chain elements.





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### **Push Inventory**



#### Push inventory systems "FORCE" products through the supply chain.



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#### Postponement

 Dell Computer Bright Stocks Custom Blending Mass Customization





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Raw Material









### Make To Order Or Stock



#### **Companies** that 'make-to-order'



**Companies** that 'make-for-stock'



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#### Make-To-Order

In make-to-order it is important that the time it takes to order the material and make the product (CLT = Cumulative Lead Time) must be less than the customer's lead time.



A make-to-order product is not made until customer orders it

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### **ABC** Classification

- In any business some parts will have a higher value than others and some parts will have a higher usage than others
- By multiplying the expected annual usage by the value you can determine the total financial impact of each item
- If all parts are then ranked in the order of this value an interesting fact emerges
- A few parts will represent the majority of the total annual revenue, cost, investment, etc.



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#### **ABC** Classification



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### **ABC** Classification



#### About 37.5% of parts are Class **B** items contributing about 25% of the total value

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### **ABC** Classification



#### About 50% of parts are Class C items contributing about 5% of the total value

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# **Different Classifications Different Controls**

- Class A items MUST be controlled with the utmost care
- Class **B** items can be controlled carefully but with broader rules
- Class C items warrant the least amount of attention



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#### Importance of Accuracy

Inadequate inventory accuracy is the most frequent cause of implementation failures for formal planning and <u>operating systems</u>.



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# **Operating Perspective**

#### "Inventory Accuracy is the Lifeblood of any Formal Planning System"

#### Formal

- Proactive
- Integrated
- Structured Plans & Schedules
- Data Intensive
- Disciplined
- Rational

#### <u>Informal</u>

- Reactive
- > Compartmentalized
- Hot Lists & Shortage Lists
- Expedite Intensive
- Assumes Inaccuracies
- Emotional



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#### **Bean Counters**





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# What is Inventory Accuracy?

#### Recorded Inventory = Physical Inventory Quantity Quantity

Financially acceptable results <u>do not</u> necessarily equal acceptable levels of inventory accuracy.
 Inventory Accuracy focuses on item quantities while financial accuracy focuses on "average" monetary value.

Loss	\$3,000,000
Gain	\$3,000,000
Net	<u>\$</u> 0



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# Why is 99+% Accuracy Required?

#### Cumulative Probability of Full Availability



#### **Cumulative Probability Of Filling an Order**

Inventory Accuracy									
<u>Items</u>	<u>90%</u>	<u>95%</u>	<u>98%</u>	<u>99%</u>					
5		88%	94%	98%					
		78%	88%	95%					
15	46%	68%	83%	93%					
20	36%		78%	90%					



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### If There Are Major Difficulties **Associated With The Annual Audit**



### What's the alternative?



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### **A Perpetual Audit**

# This can be achieved using a technique known as cycle counting



"A physical inventory technique where inventory is counted on a periodic schedule rather than once a year." – APICS dictionary



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# **Benefits of Cycle Counting**

- There is no disruption to production during the stock check as it can be carried out quickly and during the quiet times of the day
- It's considerably more accurate
- Results are obtained much guicker
- Important items are checked more regularly once a year is not enough!



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#### Frequency

"A" items = six times per year "B" items = twice per year "C" items = once per year

The mathematical formula for determining the frequency of cycle counting is:

#### RCL = (1-ALD) / (ALD\*Pv)

Where: RCL = required cycle time in weeks



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# The Purpose Of Cycle Counting

- Primarily to audit the stock and amend records to reflect the true position
- But also to identify why errors have occurred

 And to ensure that future stock keeping practices are improved



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# What It Is & What It Isn't

- Cycle counting is a measurement tool.
- Cycle counting is <u>not</u> a comprehensive inventory accuracy program.
- Cycle counting will **not** eliminate the factors which cause inventory record errors.
- Cycle counting with corrective action can drastically improve inventory accuracy



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### **How -To And When**

- Cycle count during nonoperational shifts if possible
- Cycle count at the end of activities - transactions after the start of a count can not be posted until after the count period
- Suspend activity of those items being counted until after the count is complete

- Cycle counts should be made as blind counts
- Cycle count teams should not be the same personnel responsible for the accuracy of the inventories being counted
- Recounts and inventory investigations should be conducted by independent personnel



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#### **Reordering** Factors to consider

The minimum stock level to set
The part's average usage
The lead time for that part
The last two factors will give the lead time usage



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#### **Reorder Quantity** Factors to take into account

The cost of holding stock
The cost of placing an order
The usage
Unit cost
The shelf life
Price and quantity discounts



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### **Reorder Methods**

- Order Point
- Just In Time
- Periodic Review
- Two Bin System
- Min Max System
- Kanban



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# It Is ALWAYS Worth Asking...

- Which parts are under reorder point control?
- How many parts are there?
- Who sets the MIN stock values?
- Who sets the reorder quantity?
- How are these values set?
- How often are they reviewed?

Unfortunately, most companies set these up once and never review them again!



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### **Inventory Valuation**



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### **Inventory Valuation**

#### We have purchased part ABC123 three times this year

100	on January 1st	costing \$10 per unit
100	on March 1st	costing \$15 per unit
100	on May 1st	costing \$12 per unit

- LIFO (Last in First Out) says that we should value our stock of 300 at \$12 per unit (i.e. At the last price paid)
- FIFO (First in First Out) says that we should value our stock of 300 at \$10 per unit (i.e. At the first price paid)
- Weighted Average says that we should value our stock of 300 at \$12.33 per unit (i.e. At the average unit price)
- Standard Costing says that we ignore what we paid for the part. We set a value for the part at the beginning of each financial year

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### Finding the correct balance





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# Why We Hold Safety Stock

- Variation in demand
- The lead time
- Variation in lead time
- The service level required



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# Variation in demand

- In a make-for-stock environment, the factory demand is driven by a forecast
- The forecast attempts to predict the eventual customer demand
- The forecast and the customer demand will unfortunately NEVER be the same





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period and the safety stock requirements



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#### Safety Stock And Service Level



The relationship between service level and safety stock is exponential
90% service level can be achieved with a relatively low level of safety stock
95% service level can be achieved with a higher level of safety stock
A guaranteed 100% service level is a virtually impossibility



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We would see a spread of demands both higher and lower than the average



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#### To Calculate The Probability Of Stock Outages We Need To Combine All Of This





# What to do, what to do..??? How to Calculate Safety Stocks



68.27% of demand will fall within one standard deviation of the mean 95.45% of demand will fall within two standard deviations of the mean 99.73% of demand will fall within three standard deviations of the mean

> Normal distribution has two key statistics: The mean (or average) and the standard deviation.

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### How To Calculate The MAD

#### The Mean Absolute Deviation is calculated as



n

where n = the number of observations



MAD

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### **Standard Deviation**

#### We can make an estimate of the standard deviation by: Standard Deviation = 1.25 x MAD

The safety stock can be estimated by using a formula Safety Stock = Safety Factor x 1.25 MAD This is best explained by an example



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### MAD Mean Absolute Deviation

Period	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Actual Demand	100	109	116	120	111	117	
<b>Forecast Demand</b>	115	115	115	115	115	115	
Error	15	6	1	5	4	2	

#### MAD = 33/6 = 5.50

In calculating the MAD the error is treated as an absolute number not net



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# **Safety Stocks**

# The Standard formula for the calculation of safety stock (to provide a 99.0% service level) is:

- Safety factor for 99.0% from statistical tables = 2.32
- If the MAD is 5.5 (from the last table)
- Safety stock = safety factor x 1.25 x MAD
- Safety stock = 2.32 x 1.25 x 5.5
- =15.66 = 16 or 16/115 = 13.91% of forecasted demand



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# **Inventory Opportunities**



- Better forecasting
- Increase inventory accuracy
- Reducing batch/lot sizes
- More frequent ordering
- Shorter lead times
- Moves towards Just in Time



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### **Keep Your Eyes on What's Ahead** Not Just Where You've Been





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