The 10-Point Warehouse Space Health Check

How well is your warehouse actually working? Before anyone talks to you about racking, these are the ten things worth knowing about your own site.

We work through this list on every warehouse we assess. It won't replace someone standing in your building — some of these need measuring properly, and a few need experience to judge — but it will tell you where to look, and it will tell you whether the answer to a space problem is more building or better design.

Score each point: Confident · Not sure · Known Problem. *Anything that isn't "confident" is worth a closer look.*

Capacity — how much of what you pay for are you using?

1. Do you know your cubic utilisation, not just your floor utilisation?

Floor space tells you how full the building looks. Cubic tells you how full it is. If you've got clear height above your top beam, you're renting space you've never stored anything in.

What good looks like: you can state your clear height, your top beam height, and the gap between them.

☐ **Confident** ☐ **Not Sure** ☐ **Known Problem**

2. Are your beam levels set for the stock you carry now?

Beam spacing tends to be set once and left. If your pallet heights have changed, every level with excess clearance is wasted vertical space multiplied across every bay.

What good looks like: beam levels reviewed against your current pallet profile in the last two years.

☐ **Confident** ☐ **Not Sure** ☐ **Known Problem**

3. Is your storage type matched to your stock profile?

Selective racking gives you access to everything and density on nothing. For high-volume, low-SKU stock — especially in chilled or frozen space, where every cubic metre is expensive — drive-in, push-back or pallet flow can hold substantially more in the same footprint.

What good looks like: you can explain why each area uses the system it uses.

☐ **Confident** ☐ **Not Sure** ☐ **Known Problem**

Flow — how hard is the layout making people work?

4. Are your fastest-moving lines in your best locations?

Pick face layout usually reflects the operation you had a few years ago. If your top movers have drifted away from the dock or into high locations, every single pick is paying for it. What good looks like: pick face reviewed against actual movement data within the last 12 months.

☐ Confident ☐ Not Sure ☐ Known Problem

5. How much double-handling is built into a normal day?

Stock that gets put down somewhere and then moved again to where it should have gone is a layout problem, not a labour problem. What good looks like: you can walk a pallet from receipt to dispatch and it only gets handled when it needs to be.

☐ Confident ☐ Not Sure ☐ Known Problem

6. Is anything being stored where it shouldn't be?

Pallets in aisles, stock in the dock, product on the floor at the end of a run. It's what a full warehouse looks like from the inside — and it's a WHS and egress issue as well as a capacity one. What good looks like: nothing routinely stored outside a designated location.

☐ Confident ☐ Not Sure ☐ Known Problem

Compliance — would it stand up?

7. When was your racking last inspected, and by whom?

AS 4084 sets out inspection expectations, and WorkSafe expectations sit on top of that. If you can't answer this quickly, that's the finding. What good looks like: a documented inspection within the last 12 months, with a report you can produce.

☐ Confident ☐ Not Sure ☐ Known Problem

8. Is damage being reported, assessed and remediated — or just noticed?

A dented upright that everyone has learned to work around is the most common serious finding we make. Damage that isn't logged doesn't get assessed, and damage that isn't assessed doesn't get repaired. What good looks like: a reporting process people actually use, and a record of what was done about it.

☐ Confident ☐ Not Sure ☐ Known Problem

9. Are load ratings displayed, current and correct for what's actually on the racking?

Pick face layout usually reflects the operation you had a few years ago. If your top movers have drifted away from the dock or into high locations, every single pick is paying for it. What good looks like: pick face reviewed against actual movement data within the last 12 months.

☐ Confident ☐ Not Sure ☐ Known Problem

Growth — will it still fit in three years?

10. If your volume grew 30%, where would it go?

This is the question that separates a capacity problem from a design problem. If the honest answer is "we'd need a bigger site", it's worth testing that properly before you go looking for one. What good looks like: a plan — even a rough one — for the next stage of growth in this building.

☐ Confident ☐ Not Sure ☐ Known Problem

How did you go?

Mostly confident: you're in better shape than most sites we walk. The value for you is probably in the compliance section — that's where confidence and reality diverge most often.

A few "not sures": normal, and usually where the easiest gains are. The unknowns tend to cluster around cubic utilisation and inspection history.

Several "known problems": you already know what's wrong. The question is which one is costing you the most, and that's worth measuring before you spend anything.

What happens next is up to you. If you'd like someone to walk the site properly, a Warehouse Health Check takes about 30 minutes and you get a written summary of what we found and what we'd do about it. There's no obligation and no charge.

Book a Warehouse Health Check

Your warehouse and workspace advisor. *Consider it sorted.*

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