Distribution Network Design and Logistics Operations Course

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Overview

Distribution Network Design and Logistics Operations Course is a one-week course for distribution, logistics, supply chain and warehouse professionals, who leave with a Distribution Network Decision Pack. The course connects channel network design, facility location, inventory positioning, transport integration, order fulfillment, service reliability and cost-to-serve analysis. Participants use data-driven network analysis and digital decision support to compare scenarios and improve operational resilience. Agile Leaders Training Center develops practical distribution network design capability.

Who Should Attend

- Teams responsible for distribution strategy and channel configuration
- Teams responsible for warehouse capacity and facility planning
- Teams responsible for inventory deployment and replenishment
- Teams responsible for transportation planning and carrier coordination
- Teams responsible for fulfillment performance and customer service

The course assumes participants work with demand, inventory, warehouse, transport or service data and leaves out software programming, vendor certification and country-specific regulation.

Departments and Industries

The course supports departments and industries that design, operate or evaluate product distribution networks.

- Supply chain, distribution and logistics operations
- Warehousing, fulfillment and inventory management
- Manufacturing and industrial products
- Retail, wholesale and e-commerce
- Healthcare products and consumer goods

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Build a distribution network baseline and data register
- Compare facility, channel and flow configurations
- Apply inventory positioning and replenishment methods
- Analyze transport, fulfillment and cost-to-serve tradeoffs
- Evaluate service reliability, resilience and performance metrics
- Use digital decision support to recommend a network scenario

Course Agenda

Day 1: Network Context and Baseline

- End-to-End Distribution Flow Map
- Customer Segment and Service Requirement Matrix
- Demand Lane and Order Profile Analysis
- Distribution Network Data Quality Register
- Baseline Cost Capacity and Service Dashboard

Day 2: Facilities and Channel Design

- Facility Location Factor Scoring Model
- Channel Network Configuration Options Grid
- Warehouse Role and Capacity Allocation Map
- Product Flow and Postponement Decision Matrix
- Network Scenario Assumption Log

Day 3: Inventory and Transportation Integration

- Inventory Positioning and Echelon Policy Map
- Distribution Requirements Planning Calculation
- Replenishment Parameter and Exception Sheet
- Transport Mode and Lane Selection Matrix
- Warehouse Transport Handoff Control Checklist

Day 4: Performance, Cost and Resilience

- Order Fulfillment and Delivery Reliability Scorecard
- Cost-to-Serve Driver Analysis Model
- Track-and-Trace Exception Management Board
- Network Risk and Resilience Heat Map
- Scenario Comparison and Recommendation Matrix

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Day 5: Distribution Network Design Practice

- Exercise: Validate a Distribution Network Baseline
- Exercise: Compare Facility and Channel Scenarios
- Exercise: Balance Inventory and Transport Decisions
- Exercise: Evaluate Cost Service and Resilience Results
- Capstone: Distribution Network Decision Pack

Practical Exercises

Suggested activities use manufacturing, retail, healthcare products and e-commerce distribution scenarios.

- Suggested activity: clean demand, lane and facility data and document gaps in a network baseline
- Suggested activity: compare centralized and regional configurations using capacity, service and cost criteria
- Suggested activity: adjust inventory positioning and transport choices for changing demand and service requirements
- Suggested activity: build a recommendation supported by cost-to-serve, reliability and resilience evidence

FAQs

Who should take distribution network design training, and what does it assume?

Distribution network design training suits professionals who work with demand, inventory, warehouse, transport or customer-service information and can interpret operational data and business constraints.

How does distribution network design differ from general warehouse management training?

Distribution network design coordinates facilities, channels, inventory and transport across the end-to-end flow, while warehouse management training concentrates mainly on activities and resources within individual facilities.

How does inventory positioning affect logistics operations?

Inventory positioning determines where stock is held across network echelons, affecting availability, replenishment frequency, warehouse workload, transport requirements and response time.

What is cost-to-serve analysis in a distribution network?

Cost-to-serve analysis connects customer, product, order, warehouse and transport cost drivers so teams can compare segments and scenarios without relying only on total logistics cost.

How can distribution network resilience be evaluated?

Distribution network resilience can be evaluated by mapping dependencies, testing disruption scenarios, measuring recovery options and comparing the service and cost consequences of alternative routes, facilities and inventory positions.

Conclusion

Participants take back a Distribution Network Decision Pack containing the baseline, facility and channel options, inventory and transport policies, performance measures, risk analysis and scenario recommendation. The pack makes operational tradeoffs and assumptions visible. It helps distribution, logistics, warehouse and supply chain teams coordinate evidence-based network decisions.

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