



The Config Team™
SAP Supply Chain Specialists

Industry Insight: **Migrating from SAP WM to EWM**



Upgrading to SAP EWM

Distribution centres, manufacturing facilities and warehousing operations, utilising SAP for their supply chain operations, will typically manage warehouse processes with SAP Inventory Management (IM), Warehouse Management (WM) or Extended Warehouse Management (EWM). While SAP have already stopped developing new functionality for WM, the need to consider EWM has become even greater due to the fast-approaching deadline for SAP ending its support of WM.

SAP will stop supporting WM completely in 2027, so if you are operating WM, you need to start preparing now to ensure you spend the time implementing the correct solution for your business needs. There are also organisations running SAP WM, that could benefit from the enhanced functionality of EWM, but may not realise it yet.

“The integration of SAP EWM has revolutionised our warehouse operations and, as a result, we have seen improved efficiency and accuracy, in addition to reduced order errors and delays”

Benefits of SAP EWM

As the name implies, Extended Warehouse Management (EWM) has greater functionality than WM. It was designed to meet the demands of organisations who have complex, flexible and / or high-volume warehouse processes.

There is a wealth of possibilities with SAP EWM and so it is important to understand which elements will be most suitable for your business. With capabilities to manage all aspects of inbound and outbound processes, in addition to storage and operations, EWM is the ideal solution to increase productivity and accuracy, while reducing warehouse costs.

It is important not to purely focus on your business today, but also ensure you have a system that will deliver on your long-term business and supply chain process requirements. With support ending in 2027, WM may not be able to meet your future needs. However, EWM offers the flexibility to design a solution that meets your operational needs now, while being able to adapt as your business develops to cater for new or updated processes.

The Functionality Checklist

Function	SAP WM	SAP EWM
Inventory management at storage location	✓	✓
Storage unit management	✓	✓
Handling unit management	✓	✓
Warehouse bin management	✓	✓
Yard management	✓	✓
Goods placement strategies	✓	✓
Goods removal	✓	✓
Picking	✓	✓
Replenishment	✓	✓
Mobile radio frequency technology	✓	✓
Task and resource management	Optional add on	✓
Standard material flow system integration		✓
Enhanced configurable radio frequency technologies		✓
Labour management		✓
Opportunistic cross docking		✓
Standard dock appointment scheduling		✓
Standard voice picking		✓
Standard weigh scale integration		✓
Value added services		✓
Expected goods receipt		✓
Dynamic cycle counting		✓
Loading/unloading of transportation units		✓
Deconsolidation		✓
Analytics enablement		✓
Task interleaving		✓
Slotting and rearrangements		✓



Key Considerations

Precise Reporting

EWM offers improved reporting capabilities, compared with WM. In EWM, tasks for each individual step of a process are produced, allowing performance to be managed at a much more precise level. This allows any issues with your people and processes to be identified and actioned in real-time.

Mobile Connectivity

Enabling EWM activities to be accessed and actioned through mobile devices can help encourage adoption, improve the user experience and increase productivity. There are a wide range of mobility applications, that have been specifically designed to integrate processes managed by EWM into SAP, to further enhance the implementation of EWM.

Combining Modules

Moving every business process from WM to EWM can be a large undertaking for some businesses. For certain companies, the answer could be to maintain WM at locations with minimal warehouse processes and implement EWM at sites with more complex operations. This gradual migration allows the business to embed SAP EWM with users and gain familiarity before rolling the solution out across all sites.

Upgrade Experience

There can often be a reluctance to move from WM to EWM, due to a misperception of the size and complexity of the task. EWM was launched in 2005, so there are many consultants who have more than 10 years of experience implementing EWM. We have developed a series of mapping tables to enable a smooth migration from WM to EWM, and we can also help rationalise some of your bespoke processes or middleware to ensure optimum performance, as part of the upgrade project.



Warehouse Automation

A real advantage of EWM is the way it can help to realise the benefits of automation, through true integration via SAP's Material Flow System (MFS). SAP EWM can facilitate the automation of routing a pallet along a complex conveyor belt, controlling Automatic Guiding Vehicles (AGVs) and Laser Guided Vehicles (LGVs) and communicating stock despatch information to Automated Loading Vehicles (ALVs). This functionality would not be possible within WM without investing in additional middleware.

Serialisation

Serialisation is one feature that is offered within EWM, which is not an option in WM without extensive modification. EWM allows the simple management of serial numbers and serial number tracking, particularly beneficial for companies that rely on serialisation, typically operating within the pharmaceutical, engineering and automotive industries.

Labour Management

For companies with a large or fluctuating workforce, EWM provides enhanced resource production planning. While WM is limited to tracking individual job tasks, within EWM you can assign labour time and costs to specific jobs to monitor the productivity of individuals or teams. It is also possible to see the impact of planned and unplanned staff absences on production, allowing staff schedules to be altered to maintain productivity levels. The 3D warehouse map is also a useful feature to ensure travel routes and work areas are accounted for in expected time calculations.

Enhanced Services

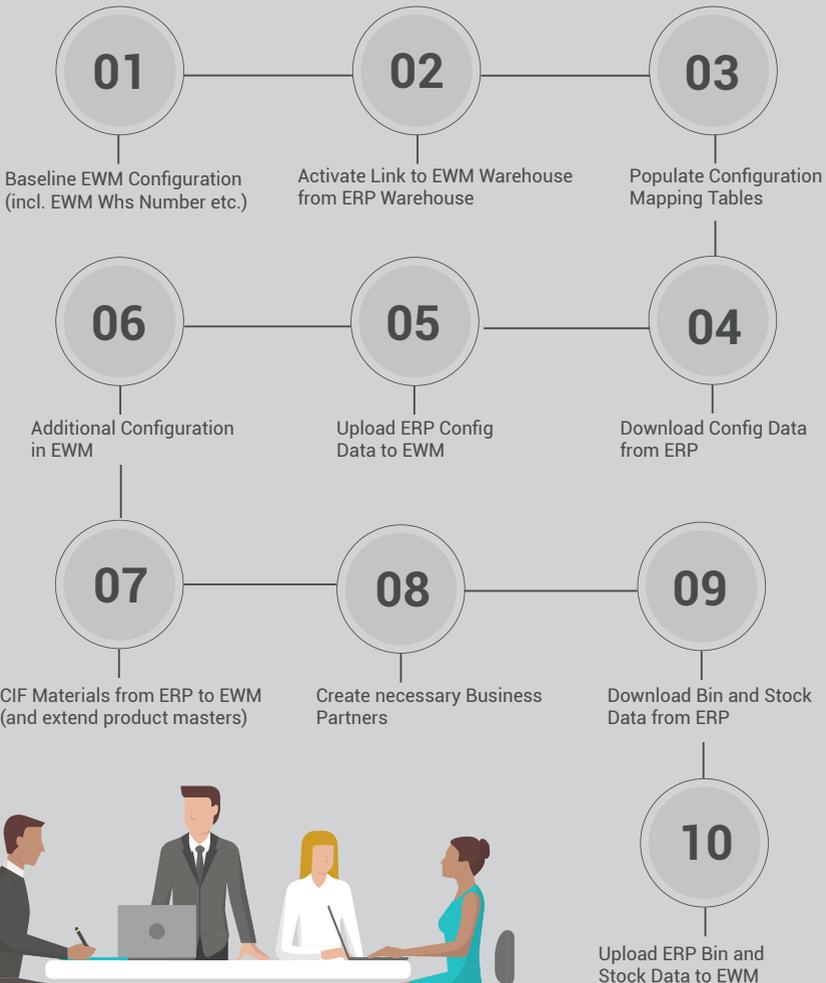
There are several features within WM, including Value-added Services, Yard Management and Kit Packing, that come with more advanced capabilities within EWM. This enables more effective management of truck/container arrival and departure, light pre-delivery product tailoring and building kits.

Picking Accuracy

EWM Slotting allows the determination of the correct pick-face for any product. This is particularly relevant for seasonal products, or new product introductions, where forecast demand can be used to locate the product into the most appropriate bin, both in terms of relevant location and capacity.

10 Steps to EWM Success

The process to move from WM to EWM has been carefully mapped by The Config Team. Our approach utilises a combination of migration tools provided by SAP, alongside tools specifically developed by our team to aid the process. We have a team of EWM specialists that are experienced in implementing EWM effectively and quickly, ensuring a smooth transition for all users.





Thinking about switching to **SAP EWM?**

Get in touch, we're here to help.

For further information on the process of switching to SAP EWM, or to discuss your specific business requirements, please contact The Config Team on +44 (0)1695 557 846 or visit theconfigteam.co.uk.



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