



Certified in Logistics, Transportation and Distribution

ABC Analysis of Inventory



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ABC Analysis of Inventory

1. Definition of ABC Analysis

ABC analysis is an inventory categorization technique that divides items into three groups (A, B, and C) based on value, usage, or criticality. 'A' items are high-value or high-priority, 'B' items moderate, and 'C' items low. Understanding this helps prioritize inventory management efforts, optimize resources, and improve overall supply chain efficiency.

2. Purpose of ABC Analysis

The primary purpose is to focus attention and resources on items that significantly impact inventory cost, availability, or operations. It aids in better control, prioritization, and efficient allocation of warehouse space, ordering frequency, and monitoring efforts.

3. Classification Criteria

Items can be classified by annual consumption value, unit cost, criticality to production, or demand frequency. Choosing the right criteria ensures ABC analysis aligns with operational objectives and inventory optimization strategies.

4. A-Class Items

A-class items typically account for a small percentage of total items (10–20%) but a large portion of total inventory value (70–80%). These require strict control, frequent review, accurate forecasting, and precise replenishment to prevent stockouts or overstocking.

5. B-Class Items

B-class items represent a moderate percentage of total items (20–30%) and contribute to about 15–25% of inventory value. They require regular monitoring and less frequent review compared to A-class items, balancing control and operational effort.

6. C-Class Items

C-class items account for the majority of inventory items (50–70%) but a small portion of inventory value (5–10%). They require simplified controls, bulk ordering, and less frequent review to reduce administrative effort while maintaining availability.

7. Pareto Principle in ABC Analysis

ABC analysis applies the Pareto principle (80/20 rule), where a small percentage of items (A) accounts for most inventory value. Understanding this principle helps logistics professionals focus resources on high-impact items.

8. Inventory Control Policies by Class

Different classes require tailored policies: A-items need tight control, accurate records, and frequent review; B-items moderate control; C-items simplified procedures. Mastery ensures efficient use of resources without compromising service levels.

9. Ordering and Replenishment Strategies

ABC analysis informs ordering strategies: A-items may use frequent, smaller orders; B-items periodic review; C-items bulk ordering. This reduces total costs and aligns replenishment with demand patterns.

10. Safety Stock Determination

Safety stock levels differ by class: higher for A-items due to their criticality, moderate for B-items, and lower for C-items. Understanding this ensures appropriate inventory buffers and reduces stockouts for high-value items.

11. Cycle Counting and Inventory Accuracy

A-class items require frequent cycle counts to maintain accuracy, B-class items moderate counts, and C-class items minimal counts. Mastery ensures correct inventory records and prevents operational disruptions.

12. ABC Analysis and Warehouse Layout

High-value A-items are often stored in accessible locations for faster picking and monitoring. C-items may be placed in bulk storage. Mastery enhances picking efficiency, reduces handling costs, and supports lean operations.

13. Cost-to-Serve Considerations

ABC classification helps align cost-to-serve with inventory value and demand. High-value A-items justify more management resources, while low-value C-items require minimal investment. This optimizes operational costs.

14. Periodic Review of ABC Categories

Item importance may change over time due to demand shifts or price changes. Regular review ensures accurate classification and resource allocation, maintaining effective inventory management.

15. Integration with ERP/WMS

ABC analysis can be automated using ERP or WMS systems for real-time monitoring, reporting, and ordering. Mastery ensures efficient, accurate, and scalable inventory control processes.

16. Supplier Management Implications

A-class items often require close supplier collaboration for reliability, lead-time management, and quality control. Understanding supplier dynamics ensures uninterrupted availability of critical inventory.

17. Lead Time Management

Lead times affect inventory planning differently for each class. A-items may require shorter lead times or multiple sourcing options, while C-items tolerate longer lead times without operational impact.

18. Impact on Working Capital

Prioritizing resources for high-value A-items and optimizing C-item stock reduces excess inventory and working capital tied up in low-impact items, improving financial performance.

19. ABC Analysis and Demand Forecasting

Class-specific forecasting improves accuracy. A-items need precise forecasting and frequent updates, while B and C items can use simpler methods. Mastery supports efficient planning and prevents stock imbalances.

20. Continuous Improvement

ABC analysis supports continuous improvement by identifying high-value items for tighter control, reviewing misclassified items, and optimizing inventory policies. Regular refinement ensures cost efficiency, service level maintenance, and operational excellence.

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Micro-Learning Programs in Procurement ...



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www.Fhyzics.net

ASCM Referral Code
XEFGHYZ88

Certifications@Fhyzics.net
+91-900-304-9000

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