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Warehouse Slotting, Pick Paths and Labour Standards Training Course

27 September – 8 October 2027
Dar es Salaam

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Ref: 1041_39351 **Date:** 27 September – 8 October 2027 **Location:** Dar es Salaam **Fees:** 9500 GBP

Warehouse Slotting, Pick Paths and Labour Standards is a 2-week training course for warehouse managers and distribution centre leads in which each participant builds a Floor Productivity Blueprint for one zone of their own site. Order profiles are fragmenting into more lines of fewer units, so travel and labour now decide the cost of every order. Jupiter Prime Training delivers Warehouse Slotting, Pick Paths and Labour Standards for floor-level decision makers.

Why Warehouse Slotting, Pick Paths and Labour Standards Matter Now

Three forces press on the distribution centre floor today. Customers expect later cut-offs and smaller, more frequent orders, which multiplies pick lines. Labour pools are tight and turnover is high, so every operator hour must count and new starters must reach rate quickly. Shuttles, robots and voice systems each need a clean slotting logic and credible labour standards before they pay back. A site that slots by velocity, routes pickers deliberately and measures work with engineered standards ships more lines with fewer hours; a site that does not pays for wasted walking, mispicks and overtime.

Who Gains Most from Warehouse Slotting, Pick Paths and Labour Standards

- Leaders responsible for distribution centre throughput, shift output and cost per order line
- Leaders who own layout, racking changes and the location map of a site
- Leaders who set labour budgets, shift patterns and operator performance targets
- Leaders who configure warehouse management system rules for putaway, replenishment and picking
- Leaders who prepare investment cases for picking technology or automation

Operations groups that send a site manager, a shift lead and a systems analyst together gain most, because slotting, routing and standards only work when floor and system rules change at the same time.

Warehouse Slotting, Pick Paths and Labour Standards Capabilities

Participants leave able to turn order data into slot positions, walking routes and fair minutes per task.

- Calculate cube-per-order and velocity rankings to place SKUs — slotting decisions for site managers
- Design pick routes and release rules that cut travel — shift leads planning daily waves
- Build engineered labour standards from task elements and allowances — operator rate setting
- Specify warehouse management system rules that keep slots and tasks aligned — systems analysts

- Weigh automation proposals on payback, throughput and flexibility — investment committees
- Apply racking and traffic controls in high-bay aisles — health and safety representatives

Key Warehouse Slotting, Pick Paths and Labour Standards Terms

- Slotting — assigning each SKU to a storage location according to its demand, size, weight and the items ordered with it.
- Cube-per-order index — the ratio of an item's storage cube to its order frequency, used to rank items for forward pick locations.
- Golden zone — rack positions between waist and shoulder height where picking is fastest and lifting strain is lowest.
- Pick path — the sequence and route an operator walks to collect every line of one or more orders.
- Engineered labour standard — the time a trained operator needs for a defined task at normal pace, including set allowances.
- Task interleaving — a system rule that pairs putaway or replenishment with picking so trucks travel loaded more often.

Warehouse Slotting, Pick Paths and Labour Standards Day by Day

Day 1: Distribution Centre Floor Economics

- Order Profile Analysis — Lines, Units and Cube Per Order Shaping Floor Design
- Travel Time Share — Why Walking Dominates Picker Hours
- Throughput Bottleneck Mapping — Receiving, Putaway, Picking and Despatch Constraints
- Service Level Pressure — Cut-Off Times Driving Wave and Shift Choices
- Cost-to-Pick Baseline — Establishing Labour Cost Per Line Before Change

Day 2: Layout Redesign for Flow

- Flow Patterns Compared — U-Shaped, Through and L-Shaped Buildings
- Aisle Width and Equipment Fit — Reach Trucks, Order Pickers and Pallet Jacks
- Forward Pick Zone Sizing — Separating Fast Movers From Reserve Storage
- Cross-Aisle Placement — Cutting Detours in Long Racking Runs
- Dock Door Assignment — Matching Inbound and Outbound Doors to Zones

Day 3: Slotting Logic and Velocity

- ABC Velocity Classification — Ranking SKUs by Picks Not Value
- Cube-Per-Order Index — Placing Items by Size and Demand
- Golden Zone Allocation — Waist-to-Shoulder Locations for Heavy Hitters
- Product Family Grouping — Co-Locating Items Ordered Together
- Ergonomic Slotting Rules — Weight Limits and Lifting Heights

Day 4: Re-Slotting and Location Control

- Seasonal Re-Slot Triggers — When Demand Shifts Justify Moves
- Re-Slot Move Cost Calculation — Labour Hours Versus Travel Savings
- Location Sizing and Replenishment Points — Avoiding Stock-Outs at Pick Faces
- Location Naming Conventions — Check Digits and Readable Addresses
- Slotting Audit Routines — Catching Drift Between System and Floor

Day 5: Pick Path Optimisation

- Routing Heuristics Compared — S-Shape, Return, Midpoint and Largest Gap
- Pick Sequence Design — Aligning Location Order With Walking Order
- Zone Picking Versus Discrete Picking — Handoffs Against Travel
- Batch and Cluster Picking — Grouping Orders on One Trolley
- Wave Versus Waveless Release — Balancing Work Across the Shift

Day 6: Picking Technologies and Accuracy

- Radio Frequency Scanning — Confirming Picks at Location Level
- Voice-Directed Picking — Hands-Free Instructions and Error Rates
- Pick-to-Light and Put Walls — Speeding High-Density Each Picking
- Goods-to-Person Systems — When Shuttles and Robots Replace Travel
- Mispick Root Cause Logging — Tracing Errors to Slotting or Labels

Day 7: Engineered Labour Standards

- Work Measurement Methods — Time Study, Work Sampling and Predetermined Times
- Elemental Breakdown — Travel, Search, Extract and Confirm Elements
- Allowances for Fatigue and Delay — Setting Fair Standard Minutes
- Discrete Standards per Task — Pick, Putaway, Replenish and Load
- Standard Validation on the Floor — Testing Rates With Real Operators

Day 8: Labour Planning and Performance Feedback

- Labour Demand Forecasting — Converting Order Volume to Shift Hours
- Engineered Performance Reporting — Actual Versus Standard by Operator
- Coaching Conversations — Using Standards to Develop Low Performers
- Incentive Scheme Design — Linking Pay to Measured Output Fairly
- Indirect Time Control — Meetings, Waiting and Equipment Downtime

Day 9: WMS Configuration, KPIs, Automation and High-Bay Safety

- WMS Slotting and Task Interleaving Settings — Rules That Drive Travel
- Floor KPI Set — Lines Per Hour, Pick Accuracy and Dock-to-Stock Time
- Automation Business Case — Payback, Throughput Gain and Flexibility Risk
- High-Bay Racking Safety — Load Signs, Inspections and Collision Protection
- Pedestrian and Truck Segregation — Exclusion Zones in Narrow Aisles

Day 10: Practising the Floor Productivity Blueprint

- Velocity-Based Slot Plan — Re-Slotting a Sample Zone From Order Data
- Revised Pick Route — Applying a Routing Heuristic to the New Slots
- Labour Standard Sheet — Setting Minutes Per Line for the Zone
- KPI Dashboard Mock-Up — Tracking Gains After Go-Live
- Floor Productivity Blueprint — Combining Slots, Routes and Standards for Sign-Off

Applying Warehouse Slotting, Pick Paths and Labour Standards After the Course

- Run a velocity and cube-per-order analysis on one pick zone and re-slot its top movers into golden zone locations.
- Time-study three core floor tasks, set draft labour standards and compare them with current lines per hour for each shift.

Warehouse Slotting, Pick Paths and Labour Standards Questions FAQ

What are warehouse slotting, pick paths and labour standards, and why do they matter now?

They are the three floor levers that decide how many order lines each operator hour delivers. Smaller orders, tight labour markets and automation choices make them urgent, because travel and poorly set rates now drive most picking cost in food, retail and spare parts distribution.

Which roles gain most from warehouse slotting, pick paths and labour standards training?

Site managers, shift leads, industrial engineers and warehouse system analysts gain most. Each controls a part of the floor: locations, routes, rates or system rules, and the gains appear when all four move together.

How does a warehouse slotting, pick paths and labour standards course differ from a warehousing strategy course?

It works at floor level rather than network level. A strategy course decides how many sites to run and how procurement links to storage; this course decides where each item sits, how pickers walk and how many minutes each task should take.

What do you bring back from warehouse slotting, pick paths and labour standards training?

You bring back a tested plan for one zone of your site: a velocity-based slot map, a revised pick route, draft labour standards and a short list of floor measures to track the gains after go-live.

Warehouse Slotting, Pick Paths and Labour Standards: The Way Forward

The Floor Productivity Blueprint joins a slot map, a routing rule and a set of engineered standards for one zone. Its first use is the re-slot decision for the fastest movers, taken by the site manager with the shift leads. After a month of floor data, revisit the labour allowances, because real operator rates show where standards were set too tight or too loose.