

## Navigating Today's Manufacturing Disruption

# A 7-point checklist for assessing scalable, efficient manufacturing operations

Manufacturers today face rising pressure from geopolitical shifts, changing tariffs, evolving regulations, and stricter compliance expectations. Fragile supplier networks, cyber risks, and unpredictable demand make it harder to plan, execute, and fulfill orders. These challenges impact margins, slow production, and increase the risk of missed customer commitments. Turning disruption into an advantage requires a connected business system that supports clear, confident decision-making.

*This checklist assesses your systems in seven core areas. Review each statement within these areas and determine whether it applies to your current systems.*

### 1. Unify Core Business Data

Fragmented data across finance, production, and supply chain teams creates inconsistencies and slows decision-making. A unified data foundation ensures everyone operates from accurate, dependable information.

#### Mark all statements that apply to your current systems

- Data for inventory, production, and finance is consistent, governed, and maintained in one central system.
- Updates to orders, stock levels, and production activity are reflected across all departments in real time.
- Information shared between teams remains complete and accurate without requiring manual re-entry or correction.

### 2. Improve Real-Time Operational Visibility

Manufacturers need timely insight into orders, WIP, and capacity to respond quickly to disruptions. Real-time information reduces delays, rework, and day-to-day firefighting and enables confident daily decision-making.

#### Mark all statements that apply to your current systems

- Teams have a real-time view of production status, WIP, and order progress without waiting for manual updates.
- Dashboards and real-time analytics provide metrics on throughput, delays, and bottlenecks to support faster decisions.
- Issues like material shortages, late orders, or capacity limits are flagged automatically before they affect production.

### 3. Strengthen Operational Flexibility

Growing product lines, customer demands, and production volumes require processes that adapt without creating bottlenecks. Scalable operations support consistent execution as the business expands.

#### Mark all statements that apply to your current systems

- New SKUs, routings, or production methods can be introduced quickly using standard templates without custom work.
- Scheduling across lines, shifts, and sites can be adjusted to reflect demand changes or supply delays.
- Plants, users, and newly acquired sites can be added with clear, upfront costs and minimal setup effort.

### 4. Enhance Supply Chain and Warehouse Control

Tariff changes, supplier variability, and market shifts make inventory accuracy and warehouse execution critical to protecting margins and customer delivery. Strong supply chain controls ensure the right parts are in the right place at the right time.

#### Mark all statements that apply to your current systems

- Inventory counts, bin locations, and warehouse activities stay aligned with system records.
- Supplier lead times, delivery performance, and tariff-affected costs are tracked to guide purchasing and safety stock.
- Warehouse receipts, putaway, picking, and cycle counts are updated in real time for accurate stock visibility.

### 5. Optimize Forecasting and Planning

Volatile markets make planning difficult. AI-powered forecasting and scenario modelling give teams early insight into changes so decisions are proactive, not reactive.

#### Mark all statements that apply to your current systems

- AI-driven forecasts and demand signals are used to drive purchasing and production plans for priority SKUs.
- Scenario modelling helps assess the operational and financial impact of supplier delays, cost changes, or demand spikes.
- New product launches follow a consistent forecasting and costing process to validate launch decisions and protect budgets.

### 6. Ensure Compliance and Full Traceability

Regulatory pressure and customer expectations require clear, accessible traceability across materials and production. Strong compliance reduces audit stress and lowers the risk of recalls or penalties.

#### Mark all statements that apply to your current systems

- Teams can access complete traceability information whenever needed.
- Quality, safety, regulatory, and compliance records are tied to each lot and stay audit-ready for ISO, OSHA, EPA, and FDA reviews.
- Recall and quality-management workflows help teams quickly find issues and take action.

### 7. Maintain Secure and Stable Operations

Cyber incidents and system outages can halt production and damage customer trust. Strong security and continuity practices ensure operations remain safe, stable, and recoverable.

#### Mark all statements that apply to your current systems

- Recovery plans are documented, tested for cyber incidents, and in place to restore systems quickly.
- Access to financial, inventory, and production data is role-based and reviewed regularly for security.
- Continuity plans ensure work can continue even during security or system issues.

## Connect with Weidenhammer's Manufacturing Experts

If this checklist revealed gaps or opportunities in your operations, our team at Weidenhammer can help you assess where Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central can create the biggest impact.

Whether you're dealing with supply chain volatility, complex costing, tight margins, or system limitations, Weidenhammer brings deep manufacturing expertise and a proven approach to guide your next step.



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