Is Your Warehouse Peak-Ready?
A Strategic Checklist for Smarter Automation

LOCUS

Peak season doesn't wait, and it doesn't forgive inefficiency. For warehouse leaders, it's the ultimate stress test, revealing cracks in everything from labor planning to system performance. While demand spikes are expected, the real challenge is how well your warehouse operations can flex to meet them without breaking pace or budget. This checklist is designed to help warehouse managers think beyond last-minute fixes and instead build a plan rooted in resilience, agility, and strategic automation.

Evaluate Your Current Warehouse Operations for Peak

☐ Identify top stress points from past peak seasons. Look at order volume, SLA performance, labor shortages, and downtime.

☐ Audit your current throughput and bottlenecks by zone or shift to see where performance lags.

☐ Review key KPIs like UPH (units per hour), OTIF (on time in full), and inventory accuracy for seasonal volatility.

Assess Labor Needs and Gaps

☐ Forecast labor shortages based on past hiring challenges and peak season attrition.

☐ Evaluate time-to-train for seasonal hires and see if your current workflows are too complex or inconsistent.

☐ Plan for surge staffing with flexibility, including support for night/weekend shifts.

Analyze Fulfillment Complexity

☐ Review order profiles and note if you are seeing smaller, faster-turning orders that strain manual workflows.

☐ Map pick-path lengths and multi-SKU order handling to understand inefficiencies.

☐ Identify areas prone to mis-picks, delays, or congestion during peak rushes.

Evaluate Current Tech Stack

☐   Check whether your WMS can support real-time visibility and scale on-demand.

☐   Look at system integration readiness (ERP, OMS, robotics) to avoid mid-season tech breakdowns.

☐   Assess whether legacy systems are slowing your fulfillment or limiting throughput.

Stress-Test for Resilience

☐   Verify redundancy in your systems, especially for order prioritization and routing.

☐   Document emergency protocols for system outages or labor walkouts.

Build Your ROI Business Case

☐   Compare the cost of labor and overtime during peak vs. warehouse automation investment.

☐   Factor in avoidable SLA penalties, returns, and customer churn due to errors or delays.

☐   Include productivity gains like reduced cycle time, lower mis-pick rates, and faster training.

Automate with Locus Robotics

☐   Plan a deployment of Locus Robots to boost productivity, reduce seasonal labor strain, and improve SLAs.

☐   Choose the right Locus solution — Origin, Vector, or the upcoming Array — based on your warehouse size and workflow complexity.

☐   Lean on Locus' AI-driven orchestration to dynamically optimize task assignments and throughput during peak.

The warehouses that come out ahead during peak season are the smart ones that plan early, adapt quickly, and automate strategically. Whether you're just starting to evaluate robotics or looking to expand your capabilities, use this checklist as your roadmap. And when you're ready to automate with proven, scalable solutions, Locus Robotics is here to help you with unmatched flexibility and unlimited throughput for peak season and year-round.

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