SAP Solution Brief
SAP for Mill Products

SAP Best Practices for Building Materials

SAP® BEST PRACTICES FOR BUILDING MATERIALS

OPTIMIZE BUSINESS PROCESSES TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Building materials companies of all sizes must be innovative and agile and operate at peak efficiency. You can use the methodology, tools, and preconfiguration in the SAP® Best Practices for Building Materials package to enable rapid, reliable deployment with quick return on your investment.

Like most building materials companies today, your organization faces many challenges that characterize a maturing market. You face global competition, customer consolidation, and increasing regulatory requirements. Market demands keep changing, and you need to respond to opportunities in emerging markets. Your industry is capital intensive with volatile energy prices. While you search for practical and affordable ways to meet these challenges, you are constantly looking for new ways to improve your operations and profitability.

To succeed, you must maintain an efficient operating model and improve the visibility and efficiency of your supply chain. To reduce operational costs, you need optimized supply planning and production planning for better plant efficiency and asset optimization. Plus, you need to strengthen customer relationships and offer excellent customer service.

Two Solutions for You

From managing your supply chain, logistics, operations, and customer and consumer services to financial controlling and corporate services, SAP® software solutions such as the SAP ERP application and SAP Business All-in-One solutions can help you address your current and future challenges.

And with the SAP Best Practices for Building Materials package, you can accelerate the implementation of flexible, focused, and fully configured enterprise-class solutions – quickly and affordably. Targeted to your industry, the package covers a set of fully integrated business processes with preconfiguration, documentation, and implementation tools and procedures. You have increased ability to meet market demand and compete effectively without straining your budget or risking your business.

Designed for Businesses of All Sizes, Just for Your Industry

Using SAP Best Practices for Building Materials is an easy way for industry leaders like you to set up an integrated business solution that provides unmatched scalability, market-tested functionality, and easy collaboration among internal and external stakeholders. The package can be used by midsize companies that need rapid implementation and by large enterprises that want to create a corporate template for subsidiaries. All companies, regardless of size, can benefit from a fast implementation with lower risk – one that is easier and faster when compared to traditional approaches.

SAP Best Practices for Building Materials reflects SAP's years of experience and extensive knowledge of business processes and best practices. This package comes with tools and methodologies that help you tailor your software solution to meet your needs and enable a safe implementation to minimize time and costs.

Leverage Industry-Specific Best Practices

The package delivers documentation and implementation methodology that reflect the industry's best practices you need to maintain a competitive advantage. SAP Best Practices for Building Materials provides your organization with the following:

- Preconfigured settings based on best practices that enable you to implement integrated software solutions with reduced installation effort
- Extensive documentation that you can use for self-study, evaluation, and project team and employee training
- Clear implementation methodology with detailed step-by-step implementation procedures supported by software tools

Support Your Business Process Needs

This package enables you to support and manage processes from development, forecasting, sourcing, and manufacturing to customer service, asset management and financial management, and get every facet of your business running smoothly. The supported key processes for building material companies are shown in the figure.

Optimize New-Product Development Processes

Best-practice configurations in the package help decrease time to market and reduce costs by providing consistent, accurate product data across design, marketing, sales, and manufacturing through integrated, automated product development processes that support your workflow. In addition, centralized document management with change management functions lets you share and trace data across the company.

Synchronize Demand and Supply Planning

Documentation in the package describes how building materials companies can improve forecasting in a commoditized product portfolio. You can integrate processes related to sales, operations, production, and materials requirements planning to help ensure synchronized demand and supply planning. Optimized portfolio management enables better insight into product and customer profitability.

Streamline Sourcing and Procurement

With SAP Best Practices for Building Materials you have the documentation and configurations you need to streamline your procurement processes and maximize relationships with all suppliers in the supply chain. You can manage everything from materials sourcing with vendor evaluation, through purchasing invoice verification, to payment processing – and gain access to centralized information.

Improve Manufacturing and Warehouse Management

This best practices package supports the synchronization and integration of inventory management with sales, customer service, and production. With optimized inventory planning and turnover, you can reduce operating costs.

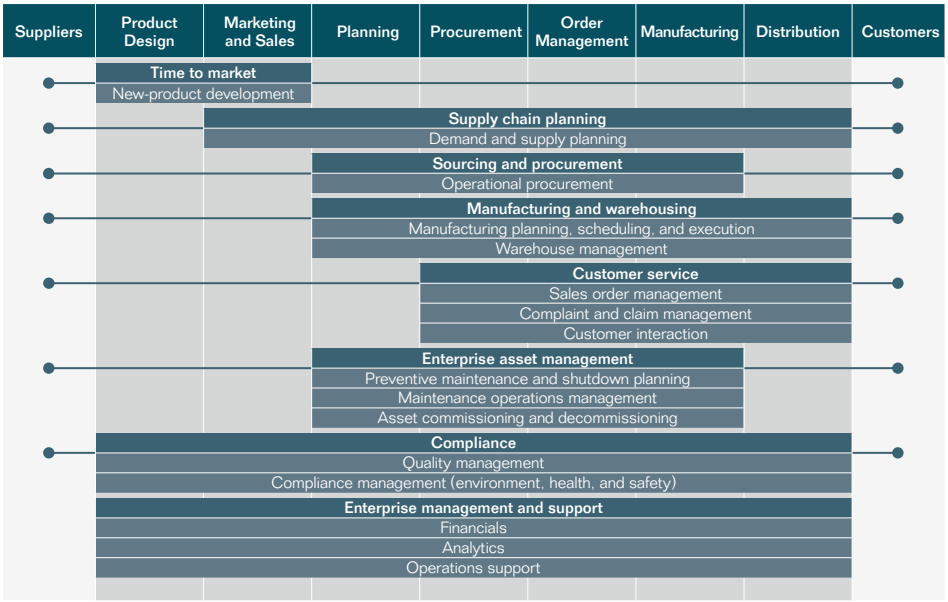

Figure: Support for Key Business Processes

You can base production planning on forecasted demand, as well as monitor material, capacity, and production resource availability for superior asset utilization and increased plant efficiency.

Enhance Sales Processes and Customer Satisfaction

The package supports sales management functionality you need to accurately determine pricing and costing, check production resources, and track and manage quotations to reduce sales cycle time and increase revenue. With streamlined processing and relevant data at their fingertips, your customer service representatives can efficiently manage queries and material returns processes for higher customer satisfaction.

The package provides documentation about multichannel interaction options for faster response times and collaborative planning. With additional information about self-service and e-commerce offerings, including business-to-consumer Web shops, you can improve customer service, reduce service costs, and improve efficiency and profitability.

Achieve Asset Management Excellence

The best-practice information for asset management describes how you can streamline maintenance processes to increase levels of equipment reliability and uptime. When processes are integrated across financials, asset accounting, and plant maintenance, you gain increased transparency and reporting on the use of assets.

Improve Quality and Regulatory Compliance

With SAP Best Practices for Building Materials, you have the information and settings you need to help ensure product quality, monitor and improve production standards, and document compliance for potential audits. You can improve supplier selection and management with vendor evaluation processes. In addition, the documentation provided in the package informs you about national and international regulations for the management of hazardous goods.

Optimize Enterprise Management

Best-practice documentation describes how to integrate financial management with business processes to gain comprehensive financial reporting. With process integration across operational areas of the company, you have access to accurate data and can perform retrospective analysis of costs and dependencies. Configurations help you automate accounting and controlling processes to improve administrative and operational efficiency.

Enhance Profitability and Business Insight

The best-practice documentation describes how you can control profit drivers, link strategic plans to operational performance, and enable a single business intelligence platform for your business. Analytic tools enable you to define financial targets, develop a realistic business plan, and monitor costs and revenue during execution. From a single source of information, you can identify which products, customers, and processes can drive top-line growth and bottom-line earnings. This solution also supports the foreign trade needs of your business.

Gain Rapid Implementation and Faster Time to Value

Built on the experience and expertise of its customers and SAP's own experts, the SAP Best Practices for Building Materials package offers a wide range of improvements and benefits.

Industry-specific configurations provided in the package can speed implementation, cut deployment time, and minimize maintenance costs. Using the documentation provided, you can decide to deploy functionality all at once or take a phased approach to incrementally support specific processes. Whichever you choose, the package offers a streamlined approach that facilitates a safer implementation and helps you gain immediate business value from your SAP software solution for a higher overall ROI and a lower total cost of ownership.

Find Out More

To learn how SAP Best Practices for Building Materials can accelerate the implementation of SAP software, help you take full advantage of best business practices in your industry, and enable your company to operate more efficiently and profitably, call your SAP representative or visit us at www.sap.com/industries/millproducts/building_materials.epx.

QUICK FACTS

www.sap.com/contactsap

Summary

The SAP® Best Practices for Building Materials package supports industry-specific functionality and faster implementation at lower risk for companies desiring performance improvements. Developed specifically for the building materials industry, the package provides preconfigured settings, intuitive documentation, and step-by-step procedures that enable you to configure your new software, speed up implementation, and run state-of-the-art business processes to drive productivity and increase competitiveness at minimum cost.

Business Challenges

- Take full advantage of expanded functionality offered by new software solutions
- Reduce the amount of time and effort to implement new software
- Identify industry-specific best practices for a wide range of business operations
- Reduce reliance on external consultants while building up internal knowledge
- Easily customize software to address business needs

Key Features

- **Preconfigured settings based on industry-specific best practices** – Accelerate implementation while tailoring your software to support your company's business processes
- **Extensive, reusable documentation** – Expand your industry knowledge, bring your team up to speed, and leverage documentation for employee training
- **Flexible and proven methodology** – Choose and activate only the functionality you need when you need it

Business Benefits

- **Faster time to value** by leveraging tools and methodologies that help you get every facet of your business running quickly and smoothly
- **More rapid and reliable implementation** that consumes fewer resources and better meets your company's business requirements
- **Lower total cost of ownership** as a result of the flexibility and scalability for implementing enterprise-wide changes and optimizing global deployment
- **Better implementation efficiency** with preconfiguration and step-by-step guidance that support you throughout your project

For More Information

To learn more about the SAP Best Practices for Building Materials package, call your SAP representative today or visit us on the Web at www.sap.com/industries/millproducts/building_materials.epx.

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