

MRP System Evaluation Checklist FOR MANUFACTURERS

Evaluate MRP systems based on how well they support real workflows across inventory, procurement, production, and engineering.

How to use this checklist:

Score each section from 1 to 5 based on how well a system supports your workflows.

- 1 = weak or unclear
- 3 = partially supported
- 5 = strong fit

1. Operational Fit

Can the system support your production reality and coordination model?

- Supports multi-level BOMs with revision control and approved alternates
- Connects engineering, purchasing, inventory, and production workflows
- Provides material visibility before builds are released
- Handles increasing coordination without ERP-level overhead

Section Score 1 2 3 4 5

2. Inventory and Material Control

Can you trust what the system tells you about availability, commitments, and risk?

- Clear visibility into on-hand, incoming, and committed inventory
- Demand-driven planning tied to actual builds
- Identifies shortages before they impact production
- Tracks lifecycle risk including obsolescence
- Provides a forward-looking inventory outlook

Section Score 1 2 3 4 5

3. Procurement Workflow

Does purchasing move from reactive ordering to structured demand alignment

- Purchase decisions driven by build demand
- Lead times tracked and influence planning
- Open orders and expected arrivals are visible
- Approved alternates resolve shortages
- Supplier activity tied to material requirements

Section Score 1 2 3 4 5

4. Production Coordination

Are builds ready before they are released to production?

- Material readiness confirmed before starting builds
- Inventory allocated across competing builds
- Build instructions reflect correct revisions
- Shortages identified before work begins
- Engineering updates flow into production

Section Score 1 2 3 4 5

5. Engineering Change Control

Do changes propagate cleanly across parts, assemblies, and active work?

- Revision control across parts and assemblies
- Changes tracked, reviewed, and auditable
- Where-used visibility shows impact
- Changes managed across active builds
- Status visible across teams

Section Score 1 2 3 4 5

6. Implementation and Adoption

Can your team realistically adopt and maintain the system?

- Implementation can be phased
- Does not require replacing accounting
- Ownership is manageable
- Value realized in weeks
- Minimal reliance on customization

Section Score 1 2 3 4 5

8. Vendor Fit and Support

Will this vendor support your team during evaluation and onboarding?

- Documentation is practical and usable
- Support is responsive
- Clear about capabilities and limitations
- Aligns with companies like yours
- Can engage in real workflow discussions

Section Score 1 2 3 4 5

Quick Self-Assessment

Overall Fit 1 2 3 4 5

Priority Gaps to Clarify:

Scoring Interpretation

Strong Fit (4–5)

Your workflows are well aligned. You can move quickly through evaluation and focus on implementation.

Partial Fit (2–3)

Some workflows are supported, but gaps may introduce friction. Validate these during evaluation.

Misalignment (1–2)

Your tools or the systems being evaluated may not support your need

What's Next? Test This With Your Own Data

The fastest way to evaluate an MRP system is to apply this checklist to your real parts, builds, and suppliers.

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