

MRP System Evaluation Checklist FOR SMALL MANUFACTURERS

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

How to use this checklist:

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

- 1 = not supported
- 2 = weak or unclear
- 3 = partially supported
- 4 = mostly 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 in one system
- ☐ Provides material visibility before builds are released
- ☐ Handles increasing coordination without ERP-level overhead
- ☐ Works for a team of 5 to 50 people without requiring dedicated IT resources
- ☐ Can be adopted gradually without disrupting active production

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 across all locations
- ☐ Demand-driven material planning tied to active and planned builds
- ☐ Forward-looking inventory outlook connected to production schedules
- ☐ Lifecycle risk visibility including obsolescence and end-of-life parts
- ☐ Demand-linked material allocation across competing jobs so the same part is not promised twice

Section Score ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

3. Procurement Workflow

Does purchasing move from reactive ordering to demand-driven planning?

- ☐ Purchase requirements generated directly from active and planned builds
- ☐ Lead time visibility across the supplier base influences when orders are placed
- ☐ Open purchase orders and expected delivery dates are visible in real time
- ☐ Vendor performance data is accessible over time including pricing and delivery history
- ☐ Material cost visibility is tied to specific jobs and builds, not just aggregate spend

Section Score ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

4. Production Coordination

Are builds ready before they are released to production?

- ☐ Material readiness confirmed before work begins
- ☐ Inventory allocated across competing jobs without double-promising parts
- ☐ Work order status tracked within the system
- ☐ Production schedule connected to inventory and procurement
- ☐ Blocked jobs visible before they affect the floor

Section Score ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

5. Engineering Change Control

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

- ☐ Revision control tied to active BOMs and assemblies
- ☐ Where-used visibility shows impact before a change is approved
- ☐ Approved changes reach procurement and production automatically
- ☐ Full audit trail of revision history across the item master
- ☐ Changes managed without email sign-off chains

Section Score ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

6. Material Shortage Visibility

Does the system identify shortages before they affect production?

- ☐ Shortage visibility tied to active and planned builds
- ☐ Identifies which parts are short and which builds are affected
- ☐ Long lead time parts flagged earlier than stocked parts
- ☐ Open purchase orders factored into shortage calculations
- ☐ Actionable from shortage identification to purchase request in one system

Section Score ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

7. Implementation and Adoption

Can your team realistically adopt and maintain the system?

- ☐ Data migration from spreadsheets and legacy systems is straightforward
- ☐ System can be introduced gradually without disrupting active production
- ☐ Usable by procurement, production, and engineering without IT support
- ☐ Production visibility achievable in weeks, not months
- ☐ Ongoing ownership manageable by the team running the operation

Section Score ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

8. Cost and Ownership

Is the total cost of ownership realistic for a small manufacturing team?

- ☐ Subscription pricing reflects how a small team actually operates
- ☐ Implementation does not require outside consultants
- ☐ Cost is predictable as volume and complexity grow
- ☐ Integrates with existing accounting systems without custom development
- ☐ The cost of not having a system is factored into the evaluation

Section Score ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

9. Vendor Fit and Support

Will this vendor support your team during evaluation and onboarding?

- ☐ Documentation is practical and usable
- ☐ Support is responsive and understands manufacturing workflows
- ☐ Clear about capabilities and limitations
- ☐ Experience with companies of similar size and production type
- ☐ Can engage in real workflow discussions, not just feature demonstrations

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 supported. Move quickly through evaluation and focus on implementation.

Partial Fit (2–3)

Some workflows are supported but gaps exist. Use the priority gaps section above to focus your vendor conversations.

Misalignment (1–2)

The system may not support how your operation runs. Revisit your requirements before committing.

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.

[Start Free 30-Day Trial →](#)

[Schedule a Walkthrough →](#)



aligni.com | sales@aligni.com | support@aligni.com