



Unlock Your Path to S/4HANA: 3 steps for migrating your SAP Warehouse Module

Discover how Körber can help you meet the deadline for migration set at 31.12.2025

In today's digitally driven world, staying in control of your entire supply chain is essential for success. Körber's experts offer our customers a unique mix of SAP consulting and SAP implementation expertise, extensive know-how of logistics processes and expertise in logistics automation, which enables solutions tailored to your specific logistics challenges.

Navigating the transition from SAP WM to S/4HANA can be complex, but it doesn't have to be overwhelming. Our comprehensive guide breaks down the process into three crucial steps, ensuring a smooth migration. The information in this "how-to" guide by Körber's SAP expert, Dr. Karten Fuchs, on migrating your SAP warehouse module to S4/HANA.

Learn how to manage your current system, explore decentralized options, and determine the optimal time to switch to EWM with three simple steps.

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Step 1

Understanding the Basics of Migrating to S/4HANA



Explore the most frequently asked questions that are closely linked to Stock Room Management, when it comes to the conversion of SAP WM to S/4HANA, especially when SAP WM is in use.

Is there also an SAP WM under S/4HANA?

Yes, if you migrate from SAP ECC with a WM to S/4HANA, the WM will be migrated automatically. As a rule, no major conversions are required. However, you can continue to use the WM on S/4HANA without restrictions until probably 2025.

How long can I continue to use my current central WM?

If you are using WM on SAP ECC, you can continue to use it as long as you are running SAP ECC. However, the maintenance costs for SAP ECC are expected to increase from 2027.

If you have migrated from SAP ECC to S/4HANA, you may only operate WM without restrictions until 31.12.2025. After this date, you may continue to operate it with limited functionality under the name Stock Room Management. You will proba-

bly not be allowed to continue using the following functions on S/4HANA after 2025:

- **Task & Resource Management (TRM), which is partly used as a forklift control system and for controlling automated warehouses**
- **WM-LSR interface, which is often used to connect automated warehouses with a subordinate MFR of the FT manufacturer**
- **Additional logistics services (LZL), rarely used**
- **Yard Management (WM-YM), has hardly been implemented to date, as it could only be used for one warehouse number**
- **Cross Docking (WM-CD), was also rarely used**
- **Wave Management (WM-TFM-CP)**

This is not for technical reasons but solely for licensing reasons.



Do I need to migrate from WM to Stock Room Management?

No. A technical migration from SAP WM to the new Stock Room Management is not necessary. You can simply continue to run SAP WM without conversion. The only thing that will change is the name and the associated license conditions, which will probably prohibit the use of some functionalities after 2025.

Do I have to pay for additional licenses for Stock Room Management?

No. The user licenses are required as with WM, and you will usually already have these. No additional licenses are required. The same also applies to embedded EWM if you only use the basic functions, which are like those of Stock Room Management.

Which warehouses is Stock Room Management intended for?

Stock Room Management is intended for small and manual warehouses. This can already be seen from the functionalities that will probably no longer be allowed to be used after 2025. These are generally irrelevant for small manual warehouses.

SAP has recognized that many customers and consulting firms would not have the time to

convert the many thousands of WM installations for small and manual warehouses to embedded EWM by 2025. Some customers even wanted to suspend their migration to S/4HANA for this reason. With Stock Room Management, this is no longer necessary, so SAP has made a very good move towards its customers here.

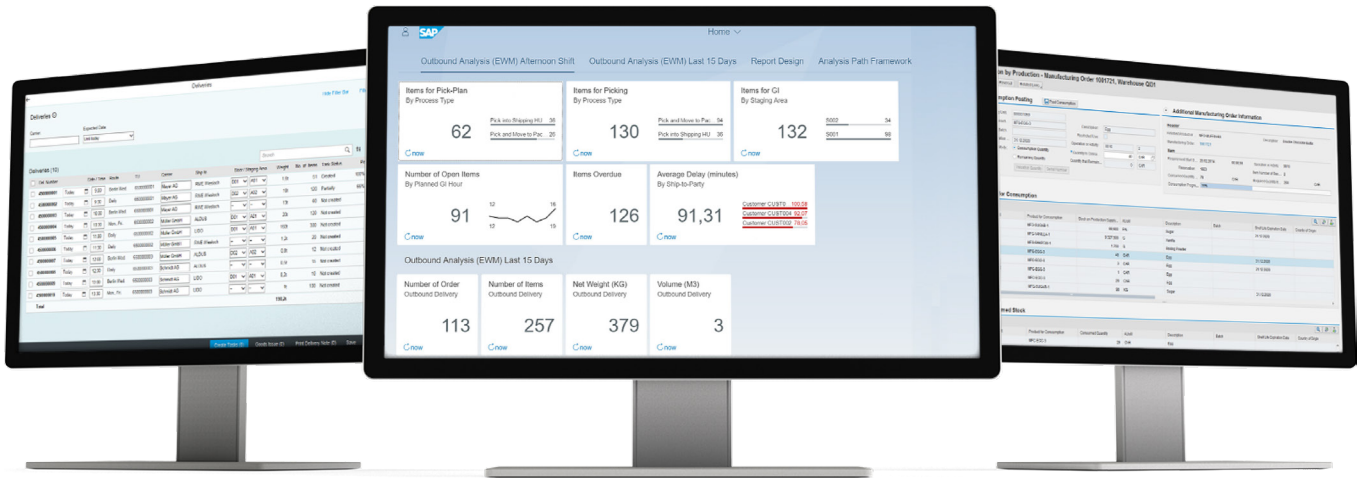
However, SAP has hardly suffered any disadvantages because of this concession. Since the use of embedded EWM for such warehouses would generally not result in EWM licenses anyway, SAP has hardly any disadvantages from Stock Room Management in terms of license revenue, which is the actual motivation for SAP EWM.

I have S/4HANA and need a WMS for a new, very simple warehouse. Can I use Stock Room Management for this?

Yes, SAP allows this. However, whether this makes sense is another question. In cases where a simple warehouse is only operated temporarily, Stock Room Management is definitely an alternative because the implementation is somewhat faster and cheaper than with an embedded EWM. In other cases, a simple embedded EWM is usually the better solution in view of possible new functional requirements that may arise in the future.

In terms of license costs, in both cases only the user licenses are usually required, so the two solutions do not differ in this respect.





Could and should you continue to use these additional developments with Stock Room Management in such cases?

Yes, this is - at least as things stand today - permitted under licensing law, regardless of the size of the add-on or additional development. There are currently no licensing restrictions on the part of SAP for such additional developments. And SAP has not announced that this will change. Technically, you can continue to use the additional developments without any problems, as nothing changes technically in Stock Room Management compared to WM, i.e. the additional developments access the same data structures as in WM.

However, it is important to check whether, in such cases, one of the functions that will probably no longer be allowed to be used after 2025 is being used. This is often the case. And then it gets complicated.

At Körber Supply Chain, we have implemented a complete material flow control system without task & resource management in many projects

and have also gone to the PLC level with the WM. We therefore do not have a WM-LSR interface in use, nor do we have any of the other functionalities that can no longer be used. In such a case, the WM with all add-ons and additional developments can probably continue to be operated under Stock Room Management even after 2025.

However, the decision is not easy in these cases either. SAP EWM offers significantly more functionality than WM. This applies, for example, to integration with SAP PP (production), SAP QM but also with SAP TM (transportation management) or event management. If you want to take advantage of these benefits, you must switch to SAP EWM, even if this is a major project and costs money. In terms of futureproofing, you are on the safe side with EWM.

To summarize, there is no one-size-fits-all answer, and each individual case should be looked at carefully. Sometimes, in such cases, a switch to SAP EWM can be cleverly combined with an expansion and other major changes in the warehouse.

In terms of license costs, in both cases only the user licenses are usually required, so the two solutions do not differ in this respect.

Step 2

Evaluating Decentralized Options for Your Warehouse

How long and under what conditions can I still operate my decentralized LES (WM)? Many customers who use a decentralized LES (WM), e.g. for automated warehouses, ask us what they should do with regard to S/4HANA and this is a very specific topic.

What scenarios are there with a decentralized LES?

You can migrate a decentralized SAP Logistic Execution System (LES) that runs on SAP ECC to S/4HANA. However, the decentralized LES, just like the central LE-WM, can only be operated in compatibility mode on S/4HANA until 12/31/2025. Stock room management does not help here either. The decentralized LES scenario is not subject to any usage releases for Stock Room Management. Therefore, it makes little sense to migrate the decentralized LES to S/4HANA.

However, a decentralized LES on SAP ECC can be connected to S/4HANA. SAP offers the corresponding interfaces for this. In this case, it is permitted to operate the decentralized LES on SAP ECC together with an S/4HANA beyond 2027. According to the current state of knowledge, regular support for SAP ECC will be available until the end of 2027 and is even expected to be available until the end of 2030 with extended support at higher support conditions.

There are no functional restrictions in this scenario. Particularly, in contrast to Stock Room Management, it is still permitted to use SAP TRM and the WM-LSR interface in decentralized LES

So, what needs to be done?

If you want to continue operating the decentralized LES on SAP ECC, you wait until the associated ERP system has been migrated to S/4HANA and connect the decentralized LES to it with the changeover to S/4HANA.

Sooner or later, the point will come at which the advantages of a decentralized SAP EWM should

be used. However, switching from a decentralized LES to a decentralized EWM or embedded EWM is like a new project and involves corresponding effort and costs. Most customers will therefore not make the switch without a reason, such as major changes in the warehouse. There is no general answer as to when the right time is. Körber will be happy to advise you based on your specific situation.

Can it make sense to switch from centralized WM to decentralized LES?

The limitations of Stock Room Management in S/4HANA, particularly regarding the connection of automated warehouses, make some customers inventive.

If customers have programmed a lot (dialogues, strategies, ...) to optimize the warehouse processes in a central WM, they want to keep the optimizations if possible. They also know that the likelihood of such optimizations being included as standard in a new WMS is low. This also applies to EWM. This means that when switching from LE-WM to EWM, they would not only have to manage the task of implementing EWM, but also the additional programming for optimizing warehouse processes.

In this situation, customers should consider migrating the central LE-WM to a decentralized LES (dec. LE-WM), which is usually possible with much less effort than introducing a new EWM. The aim of this consideration is to connect the decentralized LES to S/4HANA so that it can continue to be used after 2027, but at most until the end of 2030 according to current knowledge. However, this approach would involve spending a lot of money to maintain an old solution. It is doubtful whether this is strategically wise.

However, in the case of strongly cost-oriented decisions with a rather short view of the future, this path may well be an option.

Step 3

When is the right time to switch?



Switching to EWM, but when and how? You are using a WM or proprietary WMS and want to switch to EWM. When is the right time to do this?

When should I switch my warehouse management system with WM or with a proprietary WMS to EWM regarding S/4HANA?

Yes, if you migrate from SAP ECC with a WM to S/4HANA, the WM will be migrated automatically. As a rule, no major conversions are required. However, you can continue to use the WM on S/4HANA without restrictions until probably 2025.

There are various scenarios for SAP LE-WM:

If they remain on SAP ECC, they can simply continue to use the LE-WM module. If you switch to S/4HANA, you can continue to run SAP LE-WM in compatibility mode without restrictions until the end of 2025, after which you can only use it

with functional restrictions as Stock Room Management.

If you want/need to switch to EWM, the timing still depends on whether you want to use an embedded EWM solution or a decentralized EWM. With an embedded EWM, you will inevitably have to wait until S/4HANA is available and only then can you “embed” the EWM in S/4HANA.

A decentralized EWM solution, which is mainly used for complex and automated warehouses, can be implemented before or after the switch to S/4HANA: Implement S/4HANA first, continue to run LE-WM on S/4HANA in compatibility mode first and switch to SAP EWM later.

If you introduce the decentralized EWM before the S/4HANA migration, it is first connected to the existing SAP ECC. Once SAP ECC has been migrated to S/4HANA, EWM can be connected to S/4HANA without any problems. From an EWM perspective, the interface to SAP ECC is the same as to S/4HANA.

What EWM variants are available for S/4HANA and what are the license costs?

If you introduce EWM today, there are three variants:

- **Embedded EWM, which runs on SAP ERP S/4HANA, as Basic EWM, i.e. without an “Enhanced Feature”. There are no additional license costs for SAP EWM.**
- **The embedded EWM as Advanced EWM, with at least one “Enhanced Feature”. The full EWM license costs are incurred here. We will explain what these “enhanced features” are at the end of the blog.**
- **Decentralized EWM on S/4HANA always incurs the full EWM license costs, regardless of which functionalities are used. Decentralized EWM on the S/4HANA platform can be connected to both SAP ECC and S/4HANA. It therefore makes no difference whether you are already on S/4HANA with the SAP ERP system or still on SAP ECC.**

The decentralized variant is typically used when guaranteed, short response times are required, as is usually the case when using conveyor technology, or for complex manual warehouses with a high throughput. Other criteria, such as release and performance independence from the ERP system, can also be decisive.

If the EWM license costs are always incurred with a decentralized EWM, this is only the case with an embedded EWM if “enhanced features” are used. These include the following functionalities:

- **Material flow system (EWM-MFS)**
- **Shaft management**
- **Additional logistics services (VAS) Transport units / Yard Management**
- **TM integration**
- **Kit formation (Kitting)**
- **Labor Management Warehouse**
- **Billing (Warehouse Billing)**
- **Cross Docking**
- **Dock Appointment Scheduling (DAS)**
- **Storage scheduling (Slotting)**
- **Cartonization planning**

In contrast to initial statements, the connection of an external MFS (material flow system for conveyor technology) is no longer an “enhanced feature”. You can find out how high the license costs are from the SAP price list. Ultimately, however, this is always a matter of negotiation, so we cannot and must not make any statement on the amount.

I want to introduce a decentralized EWM. Should I use EWM on the SCM basis or on S/4HANA?

If they remain on SAP ECC, they can simply continue to use the LE-WM module. If you switch to S/4HANA, you can continue to run SAP LE-WM in compatibility mode without restrictions until the end of 2025, after which you can only use it with functional restrictions as Stock Room Management.

If you want/need to switch to EWM, the timing still depends on whether you want to use an embedded EWM solution or a decentralized EWM. With an embedded EWM, you will inevitably have to wait until S/4HANA is available and only then can you “embed” the EWM in S/4HANA.

Decentralized EWM on the SCM platform is no longer being developed by SAP. Therefore, the only serious option is decentralized EWM on S/4HANA. As decentralized EWM on S/4HANA can be connected to both SAP ECC and S/4HANA, it doesn't matter which SAP ERP system you have. At most, if an EWM template exists for the SCM platform and you need to carry out a quick rollout, decentralized EWM on the SCM platform could still make sense. However, such a case will always be an exception.

How easy is it to migrate from a decentralized EWM on the SCM platform to a decentralized EWM on S/4HANA?

If you have already introduced a decentralized EWM on the SCM platform in recent years, as many of our customers have done, because EWM on S/4HANA did not yet exist at that time, you have an EWM that is still supported by SAP but is no longer being further developed. So, the question is when and how do I migrate my EWM to S/4HANA?

As far as the timing is concerned, there is no need to rush. It is best to do this when you have time and there is little contact with other projects. However, the switch can also be triggered by the fact that you want to use new functionalities that are only available in EWM on S/4HANA.

The switch to EWM on S/4HANA is primarily a technical migration. SAP made the corresponding migration tools available at the end of 2019. The migration is therefore not comparable with the migration from WM to EWM, which is practically like a new project. There is still a lack of experience to say conclusively how well the migration tools work. We assume that this can be done with a manageable amount of effort.

Körber, a recognized SAP implementation partner

Migrating your SAP WM to S/4HANA requires careful planning and strategic decisions. With our extensive SAP consulting and implementation experience, we can provide complete and seamless solutions for all SAP supply chain products.

We are one of the biggest independent SAP implementation partners for IT solutions across the supply chain. As a strong and respected SAP partner, for more than 15 years, we have received multiple awards for partnerships and have been awarded the status SAP Recognized Expertise Partner for Supply Chain Management.

Remember the clock is ticking and the deadline for migration is set at 31.12.2025.



**Contact us now and start
your SAP implementation!**