

TECHNICAL REFERENCE · PRINT & KEEP

How Inventory Strategy Directly Impacts OEM Downtime

One-page quick reference · Full engineering guide + live tools at the QR codes below

Quick answer. A failed caster on an OEM production line routinely costs \$5,000 to \$50,000 per hour in lost throughput and missed ship dates. The mitigation is a deliberate stocking strategy: identify failure-critical carts, calculate lead-time exposure per SKU, set min/max stock levels, and structure a 90 day consignment or VMI program with the supplier.

The caster stocking playbook in one paragraph

Step	Action	Owner	Cadence
1	Map failure-critical assets	Ops + Maintenance	Annual
2	Extract caster SKUs per asset	Maintenance	Annual
3	Calculate lead-time exposure	Procurement	Quarterly
4	Set min/max by SKU	Procurement + Supplier	Quarterly
5	Establish VMI or consignment	Procurement	Annual review
6	Document backup supplier	Procurement	Annual
7	Audit against actual consumption	Procurement + Supplier	Quarterly

What caster downtime actually costs

Facility type	Typical throughput value / hr	Fully-loaded downtime / hr
Automotive assembly	\$25,000–\$50,000	\$40,000–\$100,000
Aerospace machining cell	\$12,000–\$30,000	\$18,000–\$45,000
Pharma packaging line	\$8,000–\$20,000	\$12,000–\$35,000
Heavy-industry fab shop	\$5,000–\$15,000	\$8,000–\$25,000
Warehouse & DC	\$2,000–\$10,000	\$4,000–\$18,000



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