

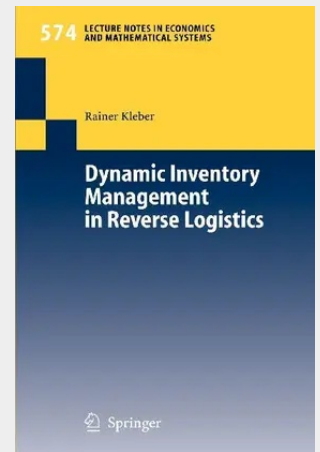
Dynamic Inventory Management in Reverse Logistics

Reverse Logistics is an area that has attracted growing attention over the last years both from the industrial as well as from the scientific side. The proper management of reverse flows of products and materials is of considerable importance in many industries because of its influence on economic performance and environmental impact. The respective management tasks, however, are connected with new challenging planning and control problems. This especially holds for product recovery management concerning remanufacturing operations where used products, after being returned to the manufacturer, are reprocessed such that they are as good as new and can be re-integrated into the forward logistics stream.

A major issue in remanufacturing is how to optimally coordinate the potential activities directed at meeting customer demands for serviceable products and to deal with returns of products after end-of-use. The respective decisions refer to finding a proper mix of manufacturing original and remanufacturing used products as well as of stock-keeping and disposing of returned items. Hereby, relevant cost impacts and time patterns of demand and returns have to be taken into consideration.

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