

Roadmap to successful automation

Checklist



Is Your Facility Truly Ready for Automation?

Investing in packaging automation is a strategic move that demands meticulous preparation. This checklist is designed for North American manufacturing leaders to proactively assess their readiness, mitigate risks, and ensure a seamless integration of new machinery.

Section 1: Product & Packaging Specifications

- Current Product Portfolio:** Have all current product SKUs, including their physical dimensions, weights, and material properties, been thoroughly documented and shared with the OEM?
- Future Product Variations:** Have potential future product sizes, formulations (e.g., viscosity changes), and packaging materials (e.g., label types, container shapes) been communicated and considered in machine design?
- Packaging Material Specifications:** Are detailed specifications for all packaging components (bottles, caps, labels, films, cartons) available, including tolerances and material composition?
- Product Flow Characteristics:** For liquid or granular products, have flow rates, products density viscosity ranges, and foaming characteristics been accurately measured and provided?

Section 2: Facility Site Survey & Logistics

- Machine Footprint & Layout:** Is the exact location for the new machinery clearly defined, with adequate space for operation, maintenance access, and material flow?
- Loading Dock Capabilities:** Can your loading dock accommodate the dimensions and weight of the machinery? (e.g., ramp access, floor level, door clearance).
- Material Handling Equipment:** Do you have lifting equipment (e.g., forklifts, cranes) with sufficient capacity to safely move the machinery from delivery to its final position?
- Proximity to Existing Lines:** Has the integration with upstream and downstream equipment been planned to avoid bottlenecks and ensure efficient product transfer?

Wait! You're not done yet...

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Section 3: Utility & Infrastructure Requirements

- Electrical Supply:** Is the correct voltage, amperage, and phase power readily available at the installation point, with sufficient capacity for the new machine?
- Compressed Air:** Is a clean, dry, and adequately pressured compressed air supply available, meeting the machine's specific CFM requirements?
- Other Utilities:** Have requirements for water, steam, ventilation, or specialized gas lines been identified and prepared?
- Environmental Controls:** Are temperature, humidity, and dust levels within the machine's operational specifications?

Section 4: Operational & Future Planning

- Changeover Requirements:** Have the frequency and complexity of product changeovers been discussed, and is the machine designed for efficient, minimal-downtime transitions?
- Scalability & Modularity:** Does the chosen system allow for future upgrades, increased capacity, or integration of additional modules as your business grows?
- Operator Training Plan:** Is a comprehensive training program for operators, maintenance staff, and supervisors in place before machine commissioning?
- Maintenance & Spare Parts Strategy:** Have long-term maintenance schedules, critical spare parts inventory, and OEM service agreements been established?
- IT/Control System Integration:** Have plans for integrating the machine's control system with your existing IT infrastructure (e.g., ERP, MES) been finalized?

Ready to Optimize Your Automation Investment?

This checklist is a starting point. For a deeper dive into your specific needs and to develop a tailored automation strategy, contact our experts today: +1 438-686-7312.