



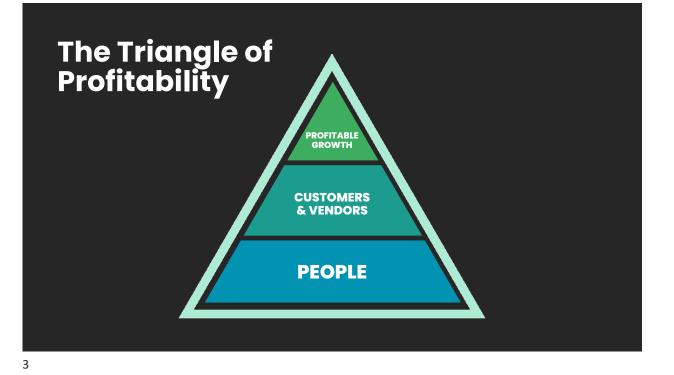


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## **The Cost of Returns**

By the Numbers



The cost of fulfillment





\*2024 State of Distributor Product Returns Annual Report by Distribution Strategy Group

# The Old Way is Broken



### Creates Customer AR Disputes

Manual processes lead to frequent disputes, draining time and resources.



#### Leads to Missed Vendor Credits

Excessive inventory write-offs occur due to missed vendor credits and poor tracking.



#### Relies on Email and Phone Based Processes

Errors and lost returns are common due to outdated communication methods.



#### Lacks Coordination Between Departments

Lack of coordination results in inefficiencies and delays across the supply chain.

# The Opportunity



Impact Customer Experience



Eliminate Manual Labor



Boosts Profitability and Cash Recognition

# TURNING COS CENTERS INTO PROFIT PRODUCERS

Challenge: Traditional returns management is often a significant cost center. **Opportunity:** Al can transform returns management into a profit center.

# **The Current State**

#### MANUFACTURERS

Manufacturers have to handle vendor RMA's on a one-off basis, requiring information like original purchase date, defective issue, and end user information.

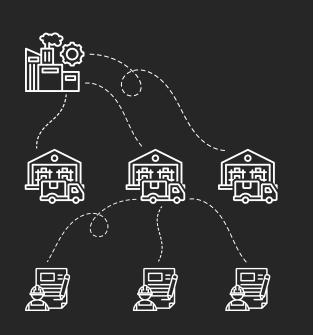
#### DISTRIBUTORS

70% of the time distributors do not auto-approve returns due to manufacturer defect and not wanting credit customers if they will not receive manufacturer credit.

- AR Invoices not being paid
- Crediting customers without credit from vendor
- Costing up to \$177 of manual labor per RMA

#### **END-USERS**

End User (Contractors, MRO, Manufacturers) Requests Return via phone or email



# **The Future State**

#### **END-USERS**

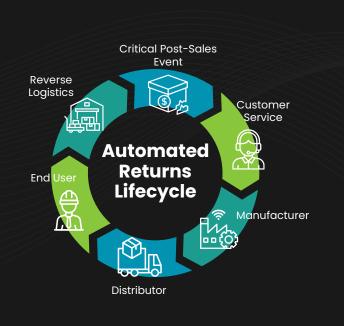
- Return policies are clearly communicated
- Customers initiate returns via Return Portal
- All information for RMA creation is provided
- Streamlined resolution and better experience

#### DISTRIBUTORS

- Automatically accept or reject returns based on pre-configured business rules
- Manual communication is replaced by automated updates on return status
- Credits are applied accurately and efficiently

#### MANUFACTURERS

- Receive RMA with all necessary information
- Ensure compliance with brand standards
- Faster reconciliation and credit approvals









# **A Better Customer Experience**

#### FASTER, EASIER WAREHOUSE RECIEVING

**REAL-WORLD EXAMPLES** 



# **Mitigate Financial Impacts**

**ELIMINATING AR INVOICE DISPUTES** 

**REAL-WORLD EXAMPLES** 



# **Reduce Manual Labor**

#### **IMPROVING VENDOR RETURNS - PROFITABILITY**

**REAL-WORLD EXAMPLES** 





# The New Way is Better



#### Delights Customers

Automated processing, proactive updates, and complete visibility ensure a smooth and satisfying customer experience.



#### Empowers Your Team Members

Employees can concentrate on high-value activities, eliminating the need for multi-department emails to track return status.



#### Seamless ERP Integration

Easily sync product information, inventory, customer, and vendor accounts for accurate reconciliation and bookkeeping.



Close books faster, enhance accountability, and drive higher profitability with streamlined processes across multiple departments.