TM Praxis ACADEMY

SAP TM & EWM Interview Questions

40 questions consultants are asked, with clear answers

Inside: 21 questions on SAP Transportation Management (TM) · 19 questions on SAP Extended Warehouse Management (EWM), plus preparation tips.

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SAP Transportation Management (TM)

1. What is SAP TM and how is it deployed in S/4HANA?

SAP Transportation Management plans, executes and settles inbound and outbound transport. In S/4HANA it can run embedded (inside the same S/4HANA system as sales, purchasing and deliveries) or decentralised (a separate S/4HANA system connected to one or more ERP systems). Shippers usually choose embedded TM; large or multi-ERP landscapes often choose decentralised.

2. What is the difference between basic shipping and advanced shipping?

Embedded TM comes in two scopes. Basic shipping covers core functions such as freight order management, manual planning and freight settlement. Advanced shipping adds functions such as optimizer-based planning (VSR), load planning and additional collaboration features, and needs the additional TM licence.

3. What is a transportation requirement?

It is the demand for transport that TM receives from the business documents: sales orders, purchase orders and stock transport orders (order-based transportation requirements) or outbound and inbound deliveries (delivery-based transportation requirements). The logistics integration settings decide which documents are sent to TM and at which stage.

4. What is a freight unit?

A freight unit is a set of goods that is transported together across the whole transport chain. TM creates freight units from transportation requirements using a freight unit building rule (FUBR), which decides, for example, whether to split by item, quantity or handling unit. Freight units are the objects you plan.

5. Freight order vs freight booking: what is the difference?

A freight order is used mainly for land transport (road and rail) executed by a carrier. A freight booking is used for sea and air transport, where capacity is booked with a shipping line or airline (for example a container booking). Both are freight documents that hold stages, items, dates, charges and execution status.

6. What is a forwarding order?

A forwarding order is used by logistics service providers (freight forwarders and carriers) to record a customer's transport order: what to move, from where to where, and the agreed services. It is the basis for planning and for invoicing the customer through forwarding settlement.

7. What is the transportation cockpit?

The transportation cockpit is the main planning screen. Planners see freight units and available capacities (vehicles, freight orders, bookings) side by side and plan manually by drag and drop, or start the optimizer. What it shows is controlled by the selection and planning profiles.

8. What does a planning profile contain?

A planning profile bundles the settings for a planning run: the freight unit selection, the capacity (resource) selection, optimizer and planning settings, carrier selection settings and incompatibility settings. Planners pick a profile combination in the transportation cockpit or in background planning.

9. What is the VSR optimizer?

Vehicle Scheduling and Routing (VSR) is the TM optimizer. It assigns freight units to vehicles and freight documents and builds routes, taking into account costs, capacities, time windows, incompatibilities and transportation lanes. It is part of the advanced shipping scope.

10. What are transportation zones and lanes?

A transportation zone groups locations (for example by region or postal code). A transportation lane defines which means of transport can be used between two locations or zones, and can hold carriers with their priorities and costs. Planning and carrier selection both use lanes.

11. How does carrier selection work?

Carrier selection proposes or assigns a carrier to a freight order. Depending on the carrier selection settings it can use priorities, transportation costs or both, and can respect allocations and business shares agreed with carriers. The candidates come from the transportation lanes.

12. What is tendering?

Tendering sends a freight order to one or more carriers as a request for quotation, so they can accept, reject or counter-offer. Common types are peer-to-peer (one carrier after the other) and broadcast (several carriers at once). Carriers can respond through a collaboration portal, email or EDI.

13. How is charge calculation set up?

Charges come from agreements: a freight agreement (with a carrier) or a forwarding agreement (with a customer) contains calculation sheets, and each calculation sheet holds charge lines that read rates from rate tables. TM calculates charges on freight orders, bookings and forwarding orders, and again during settlement.

14. What is a freight settlement document?

A freight settlement document (FSD) is created from a freight order or booking to settle the carrier's charges. In S/4HANA it is transferred to Materials Management, which creates a service purchase order and a service entry sheet; the carrier invoice is then verified in MM (or settled by self-billing).

15. What is a forwarding settlement document?

A forwarding settlement document is used by logistics service providers to invoice their customers for the charges on forwarding orders. It is transferred to Sales and Distribution, where the billing document is created.

16. How are resources modelled in TM?

Vehicles and other capacities are modelled as resources based on a means of transport. Resources carry capacities (for example weight, volume, pallets), compartments and availability. Planning checks freight units against these capacities.

17. Where are BRF+ conditions used in TM?

TM uses conditions (built with BRF+) to determine values automatically, for example which freight unit building rule, freight order type or charge calculation settings apply. This keeps rules configurable without custom code.

18. How do you track execution in TM?

Execution is tracked with events on the freight document, such as departure, arrival, loading, unloading and proof of delivery. Events can be reported manually, by carriers or through SAP's track and trace solutions, and they update the execution status.

19. How does TM integrate with EWM?

TM plans the transport and EWM executes the warehouse side. Deliveries, freight orders and transportation units are kept in sync, so loading and unloading in EWM follow the planned freight order, and goods issue in the warehouse is reflected in the transport document.

20. What is the difference between LE-TRA and SAP TM?

LE-TRA (shipments in ECC, transaction VT01N) is the older transportation functionality. SAP TM is the strategic transportation solution in S/4HANA, with planning, optimisation, tendering, charge management and settlement in one solution. Many S/4HANA conversions include a move from LE-TRA to TM.

21. How are output and carrier messages handled?

Freight documents trigger output through the Post Processing Framework: printed documents (for example a bill of lading or CMR-type documents), emails to carriers and EDI or B2B messages for tendering and execution updates.

SAP Extended Warehouse Management (EWM)

22. What is SAP EWM and how is it deployed?

SAP Extended Warehouse Management controls everything that happens inside a warehouse: goods receipt, putaway, picking, packing, shipping, internal moves and inventory. In S/4HANA it runs embedded or decentralised. Like TM, embedded EWM has a basic scope and an advanced scope (for example labour management, material flow control and yard management).

23. What are the main elements of the warehouse structure?

Warehouse number, storage types, storage sections, storage bins, activity areas, work centres, doors and staging areas. The warehouse number is the top level; storage bins are the smallest location where stock is kept.

24. What is a warehouse process type?

The warehouse process type controls how a warehouse task is created and processed, for example putaway, stock removal, posting change or internal movement, and settings such as confirmation and printing. It is found through warehouse process type determination, based on document type, item type and other indicators.

25. Warehouse task vs warehouse order: what is the difference?

A warehouse task moves a product or a handling unit from a source bin to a destination bin. A warehouse order groups warehouse tasks into a package of work for one worker, created by warehouse order creation rules (for example by activity area, number of items or volume).

26. Describe the standard inbound process.

An inbound delivery comes from the ERP side (for example from a purchase order), the truck is unloaded, goods receipt is posted, and putaway warehouse tasks move the stock to its final bins. Steps such as deconsolidation, quality inspection or counting can be added with storage control.

27. What is the difference between process-oriented and layout-oriented storage control?

Process-oriented storage control models multi-step processes (for example unload, count, deconsolidate, put away). Layout-oriented storage control routes stock through intermediate locations that the layout requires (for example via an identification point or a pick point). They can be combined.

28. Which putaway strategies do you know?

Common ones are fixed bin, next empty bin, addition to existing stock and general storage area. The putaway strategy is assigned to the storage type and used together with storage type search sequences.

29. Which stock removal strategies do you know?

FIFO, stringent FIFO, LIFO, shelf-life expiration date (FEFO), and partial quantities first or large/small quantities. The strategy decides which stock is picked first.

30. What are waves and how are they used?

A wave groups warehouse request items that are released for picking together, for example by route or departure time. Wave templates define when waves are created and released. Waves help plan outbound work around truck departures.

31. How are handling units used in EWM?

A handling unit (HU) is a physical unit such as a pallet or carton with packaging material and contents, identified by a unique number. Packaging specifications define how products are packed. Many processes work on HUs instead of single products.

32. What is the RF framework?

The radio frequency (RF) framework provides the screens used on handheld scanners and vehicle-mounted devices for warehouse execution, for example putaway, picking and counting. Screens and steps can be adapted to the warehouse.

33. Which physical inventory procedures does EWM support?

Ad hoc inventory, annual (periodic) inventory, cycle counting and low-stock checks, at storage bin or product level. Counting results are posted with differences analysed in the difference analyser before they are posted to the ERP side.

34. Which replenishment types do you know?

Planned replenishment, order-related replenishment, automatic replenishment (triggered by a stock removal below minimum) and direct replenishment (during picking when a bin runs empty). Replenishment keeps fixed pick bins filled.

35. What is the Post Processing Framework (PPF) used for?

PPF triggers actions automatically when a condition is met, for example printing a delivery note, creating warehouse tasks or posting goods issue after loading. Many automation requirements are solved with PPF actions and their conditions.

36. How are stock types and posting changes used?

Stock types show the status of stock, for example unrestricted, blocked or in quality inspection, and whether it is already posted to the ERP side. A posting change moves stock from one stock type to another, for example after a quality decision.

37. What are cross-docking and value-added services?

Cross-docking moves goods from receiving to shipping with little or no storage. Value-added services (VAS) are extra activities such as labelling, kitting or special packing, done at work centres and recorded on VAS orders.

38. What is yard management?

Yard management controls trucks and trailers between the gate and the doors: check-in, moving transportation units to doors or parking spaces, and check-out. It is part of the advanced EWM scope.

39. What is the difference between WM and EWM in S/4HANA?

Warehouse Management (LE-WM) from ECC is part of the S/4HANA compatibility scope, while EWM is SAP's strategic warehouse solution. Companies moving to S/4HANA therefore plan a move from WM to EWM, often together with process redesign.

40. Tell us about an EWM project you worked on.

Prepare one clear example: the warehouse type, the processes in scope (for example inbound with quality inspection, wave picking, RF), one problem you solved and how you tested it. Interviewers look for concrete steps, not only definitions.

How to prepare

- Explain every answer with a business example: a truck, an order, a pallet.
- Know the documents end to end: order → freight unit → freight order → settlement in TM; delivery → warehouse task → warehouse order → goods issue in EWM.
- Be honest about what you have configured yourself and what you have only seen.
- Practise drawing the process on a whiteboard in under two minutes.

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