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ROLE OF FIXED ASSETS MANAGEMENT

RAMESH VANKADOTH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SIDDHARTHA INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY VINOBHA NAGAR

ABSTRACT

The study finds out that F.A.M. is an accounting process that seeks to track fixed assets for the purposes of financial accounting, preventive maintenance, and theft deterrence. F.A.M. is useful for many organizations face a significant challenge to track the location, quantity, condition, maintenance and depreciation status of their fixed assets. F.A.M. is useful for Some Enterprise Resource Planning systems are available with fixed assets modules. Some tracking methods automate the process, such as by using fixed scanners to read bar codes on railway freight cars or by attaching radio-frequency identification (RFID) tag to an asset.

KEYWORDS

fixed assets management, financial accounting, preventive maintenance & theft deterrence.

INTRODUCTION

The successful continuance of the business depends upon the maintenance of such assets. They are not meant for resale in the ordinary course or business and the utility of these remains so long as they are in working order, so they are also known as capital assets. Land and buildings, plant and machinery, motor vans, furniture and fixture are some examples of these assets.

Financial transactions are recorded in the books keeping in view the going concern aspect of the business unit. It is assumed the business unit has a reasonable expectation of continuing business at a profit for an indefinite period of time. It will continue to operate in the future. This assumption provides much of the justification for recording fixed assets at original cost and depreciating them in a systematic manner without reference to their current realizable value. It is useless to show fixed assets in the balance sheet at their estimated realizable values if there is no immediate expectation of selling them, so they are shown at their book values and not at their current realizable values.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER

- 1. The study is to evaluate accounting methods which give adequate returns to the company
- The study is made to known the amount of capital expenditure made by the company during study period.
- 3. The study is conducted to known the amount of finance made by long term liabilities and owner funds towards fixed assets.

SCOPE OF THE PAPER

The scope of the study was restricted to the procedure of analysis of Fixed Assets Management. The information is drawn from annual reports of the company. Ratio analysis is used for evaluating fixed assets performance of company.

USAGE OF F.A.M.

The cost concept of accounting, deprecation calculated on the basis of historical costs of old assets is usually lower than that of those calculated at current values or replacement value. This results in more profits on paper which if distributed in full, will lead to reduction of capital

BENEFITS OF F.A.M.

- Save time and money
- Reduce theft and losses;
- Prevent the over-payment of depreciation taxes and insurance;
- Reduce the risk of regulatory non-compliance with legislation such as IFRS;
- Improve planning and budgeting functions;
- Establish an accurate baseline of fixed assets;
- Eliminate 'ghost' assets;
- Provide an interface with a bar code scanner and thus enable the printing of labels with bar codes;
- Add new assets on the fly and update any asset status and location;
- Track asset assignment and returns with an employee;
- Schedule asset assignment to the responsible parties; and
- Integrate capex purchases via the accounts payable facility to the assets register.

THREATS OF F.A.M.

Well-designed AIS should provide adequate controls to meet the following production cycle objectives:

- 1. All production activities and fixed asset acquisitions are properly authorized.
- 2. Work-in-process inventories and fixed assets are safeguarded.
- 3. All valid, authorized production cycle transactions are recorded.
- 4. All production cycle transactions are recorded accurately.
- 5. Accurate records are maintained and protected from loss.

6. Production cycle activities are performed efficiently and effectively. Wherever feasible, use of RFID tags or bar codes can further improve data entry accuracy. Product Design Threat 1—Poor Product Design Poor product design drives up costs in several ways to include using too many unique components and poorly designed products. Product design can be improved with accurate data about the relationship between components and finished goods. Planning and Scheduling Threat 2—Over- or Underproduction two related threats in the planning and scheduling process are overproduction and underproduction. Overproduction can result in a supply of goods in excess of short-run demands; thereby creating potential cash flow problems. There is also a risk of carrying inventory items that become obsolete. Underproduction can result in lost sales and dissatisfied customers. More accurate production planning can prevent over- and underproduction. Improvement requires accurate and current sales forecasts from the revenue cycle systems, and data about inventory stocks from the expenditure cycle. Proper approval and authorization of production orders is another control to prevent overproduction of specific items.

Threat 3—Suboptimal Investment in Fixed Assets overinvesting in fixed assets can create excess costs and underinvestment can impair productivity. Both problems reduce profitability. Proper authorization of fixed-asset transactions is important. Holding managers accountable for their department's return on the fixed assets provides additional incentive to control such expenditures. Due to the size of fixed-asset purchases, companies should invite several competing suppliers to provide bids. A document called a request for proposal (RFP), which specifies the desired properties of the asset, is sent to each vendor. Production Operations

Threat 4—Theft of Inventories and Fixed Assets To reduce the risk of inventory loss, physical access to inventories should be restricted and all internal movements of inventory should be documented. Proper segregation of duties is important to safeguard inventory. Maintaining physical custody of the raw materials and finished goods inventories is the responsibility of the inventory stores department. Department of factory supervisors have primary responsibility for work-in-process inventories. Internal controls are also needed to safeguard fixed assets. Managers should be assigned responsibility and accountability for fixed assets under their control. Finally, inventories and fixed assets are also subject to loss due to fire or other disasters. Therefore, adequate insurance covered should be maintained to cover such losses and provide for the replacement costs of these assets.

Threat 5—Disruption of Operations The high level of automation in production cycle activities means that disasters that disrupt the functioning of information systems can also disrupt manufacturing activities. Backup power sources and uninterruptible power supply devices are required to ensure that critical equipment and machinery is not damaged during a power loss. This will ensure that the production process can continue on schedule. Not only do companies need to have a disaster plan, but companies need to check on their suppliers plan and come up with alternate sources for critical components. General Threats

Threat 6—Loss, Alteration, or Unauthorized Disclosure of Data Loss or alteration of production data hinders the monitoring of inventory and fixed assets and makes it difficult to ensure that manufacturing activities are being performed efficiently and effectively. Inventory and work-in-process records must be protected from both intentional and accidental losses and damages. Regular back-up of all date files is important. Access controls are also necessary to protect production data because of the potential losses of production trade secrets. Unauthorized access also increases the risk of damage to important data files. Passwords and user IDs can limit access to sensitive files. It is important to enforce proper access controls and segregation of duties which requires the controller or CFO to review and suggest appropriate configuration of user rights in integrated AIS packages and ERP systems. Access and processing integrity controls are also needed to ensure the confidentiality and accuracy of production cycle data transmissions among different factories.

Threat 7—Poor Performance Inefficiencies in production operations result in increased expenses. Thus, manufacturing activities must be closely monitored and prompt action taken to correct any deviations from standards.

SUMMARY & CONCLUSION

Asset management, broadly defined, refers to any system that monitors and maintains things of value to an entity or group. It may apply to both tangible assets (such as buildings) and to intangible assets such as human capital, intellectual property, goodwill and/or financial assets). Asset management is a systematic process of deploying, operating, maintaining, upgrading, and disposing of assets cost-effectively.

The term is most commonly used in the financial sector to describe people and companies that manage investments on behalf of others. These include, for example, investment managers that manage the assets of a pension fund

Alternative views of asset management in the engineering environment are: the practice of managing assets to achieve the greatest return (particularly useful for productive assets such as plant and equipment), and the process of monitoring and maintaining facilities systems, with the objective of providing the best possible service to users in all dimensions (appropriate for public infrastructure assets).

The most common usage of the term "asset manager" refers to investment management, the sector of the financial services industry that manages investment funds and segregated client accounts. Asset management is part of a financial company which employs experts who manage money and handle the investments of clients. From studying the client's assets to planning and looking after the investments, all things are looked after by the asset managers and recommendations are provided based on the financial health of each client.

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