



Integration of Sustainability Aspects to Supplier Selection Processes – The Role of Locational Criteria

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Abstract

The consideration of sustainability-related aspects provides nowadays a competitive edge, but, due to factors such as public and market pressures, may soon become the only way for an organization to subsist. In this shift, supply chains play an important, strategic role, because of the amount, importance and implications of the decisions taken during its planning, such as the supplier selection process. However, despite the attention publicly given by the organizations to environmental and social issues, supplier selection processes have been based mainly on economical aspects. The purpose of this paper is to highlight the importance of the decisions regarding supply chain planning in the search for a higher degree of sustainability, through an analysis of the locational criteria used for supplier selection. Initially, a literature review was conducted in order to point out such criteria, as well as the corresponding models of application in the decision making process. They were, after that, evaluated and classified according to the Triple Bottom Line (TBL) concept of sustainability. As a result, the paper identified three historical moments, which currently represent three possible approaches for locational criteria adoption in the supplier selection process: the consideration of purely economical aspects, and the subsequent addition of environmental and social aspects in decision making. Further, the paper presents some closing remarks and suggestions for future research.

Keywords: *supply chain, supplier selection, sustainability*
