

Supply chain is a network of organizations that are involved in the upstream and downstream linkages in the different processes and activities that produce value in the form of products and services in the hands of the ultimate customer or consumer. Upstream means against the current and relates to the relationships between an enterprise and its suppliers and supplier's suppliers for example suppliers of agricultural inputs. Downstream is with the current and relates to the relationship between an enterprise and its customers. Supply chain encompasses all activities associated with the flow and transformation of goods from the raw material stage (extraction), through to the user, as well as the associated information flows. Material and information flow both up and down the supply chain. The supply chain council states that the supply chain is a term used by logistics professionals which encompasses every effort involved in producing and delivering a final product from the suppliers' suppliers to the customers' customer. Four basic processes are: plan, source, make and deliver. This includes managing supply and demand, sourcing raw material and parts, manufacturing and assembly, warehousing and inventory tracking, order entry and order management, distribution across all channels and delivery to the customer. Supply chain is an extension of logistics hence reading this book will help the reader to know more about supply chain activities.



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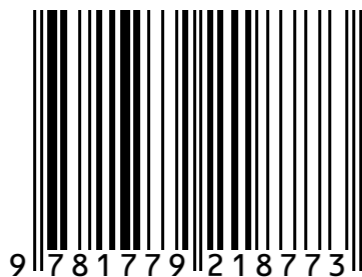
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