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Managing Closed-Loop Supply Chains

- Insight into the possibilities and requirements for having well functioning closed-loop supply chains
- With cases from practice, grouped according to the starting points (inputs, triggers) for a closed-loop supply chain, like commercial returns, end-of-life returns and more

Introduction Closing supply chains refers to taking care of items once they are no longer desired or can no longer be used by their user. Smart management of closed-loop supply chains means profitable recovery of value from these items (products, functional components, materials or packaging). The company closing the supply chain may be the original equipment manufacturer (OEM), a distribution partner or a third party not involved in the forward distribution. In recent years, the management of closed-loop supply chains has gained importance because of increased legislation on producer responsibility, requiring companies to take back products from customers and to organize for proper recovery and disposal. This legislation is partially due to increased awareness of environmental issues. However, smart companies have also understood that returned products often contain lots of value to be recovered. They manage closed-loop supply chains simply because it is a profitable business proposition.

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