

**Identifying the most influential criterion of selecting a 3PL  
provider by Large Scale apparel manufacturing and export  
companies in Sri Lanka**

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**Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the**

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## **DECLARATION OF THE CANDIDATE & SUPERVISOR**

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Date

The above candidate has carried out research for the Masters thesis under my supervision.

Name of the supervisor: Ms. Harishani Liyanage

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Signature of the supervisor:

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Date

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## **ABSTRACT**

The 3PL companies plays a major role in supply chain function in most of the largescale manufacturing companies. In the global scenario, in apparel industry plays a major role in collaborating and optimizing the supply chain function in large scale companies ensuring seamless flow of the operation. However when we consider the 3PL Industry in Sri Lankan context the most of the customers that 3PL companies handle is either FMCG vertical or industrial vertical. When analyzing the data it showed a very low percentage that apparel manufacturing companies outsource their warehousing and logistics function to 3PL service provider.

Considering the facts, this report discuss about the barriers for large scale apparel manufacturing companies to outsource their warehousing function to 3PL providers. And the most influential criterion for Sri Lankan large scale apparel manufacturing and exporting company evaluate a 3PL company. To evaluate the point mentioned above I have used a questionnaire to collect data. The methodology used for the research was Identifying current organisational practices and trends in warehouse management of Large Scale apparel manufacturing and export companies in Sri Lanka. And secondly assessed the barriers of outsourcing the warehousing function. Analysed the data collected from decision makers of few reputed apparel companies in Sri Lanka. And evaluated the most influential criterion.

For this I have analysed the research outcomes from previously done researches in this regard and the data Analysis of the collected data are conducted with R Statistical Programming and Microsoft Excel.

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Description</b>
3PL	Third Party Logistics
CITIPAT	Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism
DEA	Data Envelopment Analysis
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
MCDM	Multi-Criteria Decision Making
SA8000	Self Assessment: Partnership Tax Return
CAFTA	Central American Free Trade Agreement
WMS	Warehouse Management System
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange



# **LIST OF APPENDICES**

<b>Appendix</b>	<b>Description</b>
Appendix A	pilot survey questioner
Appendix B	Questionnaire Particilants List