



PROBLEM SOLVING WITHIN TEAMS

Many people think that lean manufacturing is only comprised of strategies such as Value Stream Mapping, Workplace Organization (5S), one piece flow and Kanban. But a key component of lean manufacturing that must not be overlooked is the use of problem solving by the teams. This is a major factor in the successful implementation of lean principles in an organization. The use of team leader led problem solving in the manufacturing environment enables all those involved to become more empowered to make significant change within their areas and organizations.

Many teams are used to just putting Band-Aids on their problems and never investigate them with the correct people, to identify the root cause of the problem. The identification of the real root cause is vital to solving the problems forever. It is imperative that you find the root cause; but it is how you do it and approach the problem that is utmost importance. The first thing to do is spend the necessary time and effort to identify what the problem actually is. You need to clearly understand what the standard is supposed to be before you can recognize the possible cause(s) for it being that way. Once the problem is clearly described you can then use various problem solving tools that are available.

Some of the tools that MRK Performance Solutions uses and that you can use are: 1.

Plan, Do, Check, Act (PDCA) 2. Ishakawa Diagram (Fishbone) 3. 5-Why Analysis 4.
Failure Modes and Effects Analysis (FMEA)

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