



e-Zine

Lean Six Sigma Implementation

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October 2010

There are two key questions in any significant undertaking: “where are we going?” and “where to begin?” Implementing Lean Six Sigma is no exception. Answering “where are we going?” is relatively easy; we’re embarking on a journey to eliminate waste in all its forms, which is the heart of Lean. The old adage applies: Lean is a journey, not a destination. Early in the journey simple tools and techniques can be used to capture low hanging fruit, yielding measurable improvements. These include 5S, process mapping and cause & effects (C&E) analysis. But as the problems become more complex, and the solutions less obvious, a more structured analytical and statistical approach is needed to continue down the path. We’ve now entered the realm of Lean Six Sigma.

The question at this point becomes, “where to begin?” Organizations that are serious about Lean Six Sigma begin by recognizing that the journey requires organizational commitment and cultural change. Committing to widespread education and training is an excellent place to start. Follow up with staffing commitments including naming an executive champion, developing Six Sigma master black belts, and dedicating these individuals to train, develop and coach others in the organization. Establish goals for each department to develop at least one green belt by a target date and establish a path for the best candidates to achieve black belt status. Belt status is earned by successfully completing projects that move the organization toward its Lean objectives and foster continued commitment to the vision. The cultural change has begun!

For a more thorough discussion of this topic, pick up a copy of [Driving Operational Excellence – Lean Solutions for Success to Improve the Bottom Line](#) coming soon to Amazon.com and other outlets.

Whether you’re just beginning a Six Sigma program, or looking for ways to improve the utilization of Six Sigma in your Supply Chain, Operations or Inventory Management processes, SCC Inventory Consulting is prepared to assist with education, project support and leadership, or on-site consulting. Check out our web site (www.SCCInventory.com), or contact us directly, by phone at (321) 269-3407 or by email at Steve.Cimorelli@SCCInventory.com.