

Quick Wins Newsletter

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Beginning a CI Journey – Basic Project

TOTAL PRODUCTIVE MAINTENANCE (TPM) – It happens all the time, the key machine or piece of test equipment used to produce the most critical product in your business fails when you can least afford it. A component or system with a long lead-time is required to fix the equipment to get you back into production. Valuable time is lost and customer relationship is damaged. What is the true-cost for such a common problem? The long-lead, replacement part is expedited; the team works overtime to rush the order through once the equipment is back up running, and the customer wants a discount for their inconvenience. More than likely, the cost of having this much needed component or system in your inventory is small compared to the true-cost of the failure to the business.

Quick Win Project - Hold a Kaizen event with an appropriate team of cross-functional subject matter experts to evaluate and implement a TPM model for the most critical capital in your business. What key components and/or systems should you have available to keep the equipment functioning properly? What type of service contract should you have with outside suppliers to help with this goal? And of course, what periodic maintenance is required to keep the equipment in proper order? Once you have done the TPM activity for the most critical capital in your business, step and repeat this Kaizen event for the remaining single-point-failure equipment and tools in your business. Be sure to make this TPM process part of your future standard work. Also, do not forget to measure the actual time between failures as compared to your model. Using this data over time will improve the accuracy of your predictive TPM models to the point you can schedule downtime to replace key components and systems before they fail.

More Advanced CI Project

CLEAN UP YOUR DATA - So many companies tolerate bad data in their business systems. Whether it is MRP, ERP, CRM, etc., bad data is created and tolerated. The excuse for not fixing it; “It will take too long to fix it, so we put up with it”. The very thought of trying to correct the bad data and the process that creates it in the first place feels like eating a large bowl of pasta. You keep working on it and working on it, but the pile never seems to go down in size. Unfortunately, the bad data creates all kinds of waste in your business.

Quick Win project: Put a dedicated team on the problem. Fix the process that creates the bad data and clean up the data in the system. Measure the rate that the team corrects the bad data. Hold daily stand-ups with the team to discuss help needed and the daily closure rate. As the team becomes more efficient cleaning up the data, they can celebrate the new closure rate that will in turn invigorate the team to keep going. Once the bad data is gone, make sure the team has identified the root cause of the problem and the corrected process is a sustainable solution. You might even calculate the time saved by not working around the bad data in the future. This time savings will help justify the next problem in your business to tackle using a “tiger-team”.

The Quick-Wins Newsletter will provide brief Quick-Win project ideas to kick-start, progress, or rejuvenate your Continuous Improvement journey to World-Class. In support of the Quick-Wins Newsletter, download and take my Leadership Self-Assessment survey.

My Leadership Self-Assessment can be downloaded at:
www.tangibleimprovement.com/quick-wins/

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Tangible Improvement offers Executive Interim Management solutions, helping you execute your business strategies without delay. We are available to fill an opening, at the highest level of management, in several key functional roles. *“Never delay promoting a good employee due to lack of bench strength to backfill a position. Fill the role with an interim solution while you recruit the long-term replacement.” –Dean Cantrill*