

How to Start with Continual Improvement

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Do you look at your manufacturing process and question whether the flow of your product is optimal? The complexity of the flow is often something that we take as being self-evident.

It is going to be crucial for recovery now and to thrive in the future. Is the flow of your production causing bottlenecks? Today's complexity drives the need to be great at problem solving and finding new efficiencies in operations. And it is going to be crucial to always be in continual improvement mode to thrive in the future.

Problems with your manufacturing process can magnify issues in product quality and on-time delivery resulting in metrics that are less than acceptable. Customers notice these things and could decide to take their business elsewhere.

Here are some starting points:

- 1) Focus on streamlining your process, improving your productivity, and increasing the safety of your operations.
- 2) Target getting products to market faster, increasing your product's quality and building an edge on your competition.
- 3) Empower your employees to have the right products available at the right time in the right quantities.





To focus your efforts on the customer needs is truly what adds value. As a means of providing that value, you need to identify what value means to your customer:

- Always receiving an excellent quality product
- Needing the product to be on-time every time
- Providing product at a cost that the customer is willing to pay

Once you understand those metrics, you can then apply continuous improvement tools to get you there:

- Map the Value Stream to understand both from a business process and manufacturing process where the bottlenecks reside
- Using kaizen events to make changes to Create Flow in either the business or manufacturing process or both
- Ideally Establish Pull so that you are balancing the needs of the customer and the pace (takt) of the production process
- Once that baseline is established, either break the process or look for the next level bottleneck

Continually improving is the name of the game!

Need Help?

Contact Tim Angbrandt with NEO Manufacturing Experts for your Free Consultation.

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