

Case Study

Productivity Improvement Project

"As UK's market leader in signs and labels we aim to continually improve our quality of manufacturing, our service to our customers and the ongoing support and advice following sales and installations. Working with OLC has shown us the way to continuously focus on the value stream and using lean manufacturing and better practice."

OPERATIONS MANAGER, STOCKPORT

Customer

Signs and Labels Ltd

Profile

Signs and Labels manufacture and install bespoke signs for companies and organisations. They also stock 'off the shelf' products.



Challenge

The production department of the company felt that they could improve their processes and systems to lead to more effective productivity.

Solution

A four month programme was designed for the supervisors and managers of the production department to help them adopt world class manufacturing principles associated with Lean Manufacturing. This would begin with 6 half days of 'just-in-time' training for 16 people and would be followed by a period of support for three productivity improvement projects. The staff had no experience of working on projects and so OLC would support the managers and supervisors to plan, implement and complete three productivity improvement projects.

Key

Interventions

- A programme comprising of six 'just in time' training courses
- Support to plan the first three projects and OLC facilitate implementations
- Ongoing support for the projects and help with continual improvement tools
- Facilitation of project review meetings and Kaizen events

Benefits

The group training led to a common understanding of a set of world class tools and techniques. The staff also learnt how to identify and manage projects. The projects they initiated have all brought improved operations leading to customer satisfaction and cost saving. One of the handful of projects OLC facilitated brought a saving of £26,000 per year. Signs and Labels production department are now able to operate more projects to ensure they continue their journey to becoming a world class production company.

Company History

For over 40 years Signs and Labels have manufactured and distributed safety signs from their world class manufacturing, headquarters in Stockport, Greater Manchester, UK. The journey towards excellence in manufacturing has led to improvements in quality and profitability. Now Signs and Labels manufacture and distribute more safety signs than anyone else in the UK.
