POLARIS MEP
Manufacturing Forward

RESULTS

RESULTS: CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

VIBCO SEES FULL POTENTIAL IMPACT OF LEAN AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT





COMPANY PROFILE

The VIBCO manufacturing company produces industrial and construction vibrators and vibratory equipment. The family-owned business, located in Wyoming, Rhode Island, began operations in 1962 and sells their products in the United States and throughout the world.

SITUATION

The Company's president, Karl Wadensten, had embraced Continuous Improvement as a culture for VIBCO.

They had a Lean Champion on staff and had been using the principles of lean manufacturing for over two years. Major progress had been achieved in the Finished Goods Assembly Department as well as other areas in the plant. Inventories in finished goods had been reduced to a two week average using a weekly min/max "pull system" and the Assembly Department was using cellular manufacturing with point of use storage.

However, VIBCO was experiencing bottlenecks in the Repair Department. There was a consistent problem with lead times. Customers were waiting for their repaired equipment for an average of three weeks.

SOLUTION

Wadensten contacted Polaris MEP and arranged to bring in a "Lean Team" for some additional lean training and to facilitate a "Kaizen" event in the Repair Department. A Kaizen is a business philosophy of continuous improvement of working practices.

Through the implementation of a variety of Lean Manufacturing Techniques such as cellular flow and 5S, the Polaris MEP Team, working with the VIBCO team, achieved several improvements in the repair department.

Waste was reduced and both turnaround time and yearly productivity improved.

IMPACTS

Repair turnaround time went from 3 weeks to two days

80% improvement

Transportation waste went from 1257 ft. per day to 843 ft. per day

32% improvement

Yearly work content (productivity) went from 1050 hrs./year to 700 hrs./year

35% improvement

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"(Polaris MEP) opened our eyes to the full potential impact of Lean and Continuous Improvement."

Karl Wadensten
President

Looking for greater profitability and productivity?

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