

Research Description

In this research program, many Singapore small and medium-sized enterprises has and many express the need to innovatively measure and learn how to slash work in progress and yet stocking sufficient finished goods to satisfy customers in Singapore and regional markets through a targeted and inventory reduction program. In a step-by-step format SMEs will learn how to form the best inventory reduction team, how to implement an effective improvement process and how to measure the financial benefits of reduced stock levels.

As providers of specialty plus contract manufacturing and support services to large corporations, SMEs fill a very specific niche in the supply-chain where they in turn holds the inventory for customers and today, are challenged by limited land and space for storage.

Inventory Practice	% of SMEs
Just-in-time supplier deliveries	24.10%
Pull systems with kanban signals	18.50%
Vendor-managed or -owned inventories	12.20%
One-piece flow techniques	5.30%
Quick equipment changeovers	5.90%
Production leveling/heijunka	2.50%
RFID and computerized inventory tracking	1.00%
None of these	29.80%

What You Will Learn (subject to change)

- How to Control WIP (Work in Process) Bottlenecks
- How to Lead a Change Initiative
- How the Manufacturing Flow Process Helps a Business to Compete
- About Visual Management
- The Functional Changes Required to Create a Balanced Production Line
- How to Identify and Reduce Non-Value Added Work
- How to Use Kanbans
- The Necessary Role of Time Fences in the Manufacturing Flow Process
- The Essential Requirement of Cross-Trained Employees
- How to Implement and Manage the Manufacturing Flow Process



SME Survey Data Finding 4

From the 2011/2012 survey of about 50 small and medium-sized enterprises, the results indicated majority of manufacturing SMEs do not use common inventory-management practices and techniques: just-in-time supplier deliveries are the most common inventory-management practice in developed countries (in use at 24% of SME factories), followed by pull systems with kanban signals (19%), and vendor-managed or -owned inventories (12%). (Factories outside Singapore are less likely to be using most of these practices.) Approximately 30% of SMEs factories have none of the practices in place.

With only less than 25% of respondents have a benchmark target of 5 to 10 percent improvement annually, while the remaining 75% citing 0 percent or not applicable.