

# Practical Steps to Create a Quality and Productive Shopfloor

A shopfloor is the heart of any manufacturing operation. It is where raw materials are transformed into finished products. The efficiency and productivity of the shopfloor have a direct impact on the profitability of the business. In today's competitive market, it is essential for manufacturers to find ways to improve shopfloor productivity without sacrificing quality.



## SPC Simplified: Practical Steps to Quality (Productivity's Shopfloor) by Robert T Amsden

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There are a number of practical steps that manufacturers can take to improve shopfloor productivity. These steps include:

### 1. Implement a lean manufacturing system

Lean manufacturing is a philosophy that focuses on eliminating waste from the production process. Waste can take many forms, such as overproduction, waiting, transportation, defects, and inventory. By

identifying and eliminating waste, lean manufacturing can help to improve productivity and quality.

There are a number of tools and techniques that can be used to implement lean manufacturing, such as:

- Value stream mapping
- Kanban
- 5S
- Total productive maintenance

## **2. Use automation**

Automation can help to improve shopfloor productivity by reducing the amount of manual labor required. This can free up workers to focus on more value-added activities, such as quality control and product development.

There are a number of different types of automation that can be used in a shopfloor environment, such as:

- Robotic arms
- Automated guided vehicles
- Computer-aided manufacturing (CAM) machines

## **3. Improve employee training**

Well-trained employees are more productive and efficient than untrained employees. This is especially true in a shopfloor environment, where there

are a number of complex tasks that need to be performed. Manufacturers should invest in employee training to ensure that their workers have the skills and knowledge they need to succeed.

Employee training can cover a variety of topics, such as:

- Safety procedures
- Quality control standards
- Machine operation
- Process improvement techniques

#### **4. Create a positive work environment**

A positive work environment can help to improve shopfloor productivity. When employees are happy and motivated, they are more likely to be productive and efficient. Manufacturers can create a positive work environment by:

- Providing employees with a clean and safe workplace
- Offering competitive wages and benefits
- Recognizing and rewarding employee achievement
- Empowering employees to make decisions

#### **5. Monitor and measure productivity**

It is important for manufacturers to monitor and measure shopfloor productivity in order to identify areas for improvement. There are a number of different metrics that can be used to measure productivity, such as:

- Output per hour
- Defect rate
- Machine utilization
- Lead time

By monitoring and measuring productivity, manufacturers can identify trends and make changes to improve efficiency.

By following these steps, manufacturers can improve shopfloor productivity and quality without sacrificing either. A productive and efficient shopfloor is essential for profitability in today's competitive market.



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