

Management Consultants to the Precast Industry

Precast Business Results Improvement Bulletins are published by MJS Management Services. Additional bulletins that summarize current management challenges and solutions for the precast industry can be found at www.mjsmanagement.net.

MJS Management Services is a consulting firm that works exclusively with clients in the precast industry to improve business performance and results. For assistance with this or other management challenges please call 206-388-5209 or contact us by email. Visit our web site for a full description of the services we provide.

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LEAN PHASE I ASSESSMENTS FOR PRECAST/PRESTRESSED PRODUCERS

This month's Results Improvement Bulletin describes a very popular service offering – **Lean Phase I Assessment for Precast/Prestressed Producers.**

Some common questions asked by precast management teams:

- How lean are our processes?
- How much waste is evident in my production and office processes?
- What benefits could be achieved by adopting lean principles?
- How and where do we start?
- Where should we extend current lean efforts?

Our Lean Phase I Assessment program is specifically designed for precast/prestressed producers to answer these questions and provide an action plan for immediate improvements in quality, throughput and cost structure.

We've seen a high interest in lean management principles within the industry as management teams seek effective methods to drive performance improvements. As described in earlier Results Improvement Bulletins, lean management principles work well for precasters because they are easy to understand, action-oriented and provide effective tools for waste reduction and continuous improvement.

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Lean Phase I Assessments for precast/prestressed producers

We've experienced strong demand for our Lean Phase I Assessments for Precast/Prestressed Producers. The assessments provide:

- An exposure to lean principles.
- An assessment of the magnitude of waste (non-value added activity) in selected processes.
- Practical recommendations for immediate improvement.
- Description of the commitment required to more fully implement lean management in your organization.
- Introduction to industry best practices that your management team may not have considered.

The Phase I assessments are suitable for organizations that are unfamiliar with lean concepts and those that want to expand their lean efforts to additional process areas.

Lean Phase I assessments can be applied to individual or multiple processes in production or office functions, for example:

- One or more product lines (e.g. double T's, wall panels)
- Fabrication shops, raw material handling, finished piece handling, yarding, scheduling
- Project management, drafting and engineering
- Finance, administration, purchasing
- Sales and estimating

As outlined in prior Bulletins, it's not uncommon to find waste factors (non-value added activity) that exceed 25-30% in certain processes. The Lean Assessment is an economical way to begin to eliminate this waste and improve throughput.

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Typical work program, deliverables and benefits

A typical work program includes:

- Review process flow and value stream.
- Identify sources and quantities of waste.
- Assess key lean attributes (5S, mistake proofing, communication, flow, standardization, flexibility and others).

Deliverables include:

- Description of sources and amount of waste in the process.
- Recommendations for process streamlining that will improve throughput, speed, quality and cost.
- An action plan.

The benefits you'll receive from our Lean Phase I Assessments include:

- Improve throughput, speed, quality and cost structure.
- Reduce waste.
- Greater knowledge of lean concepts.
- Better understanding of where to target improvement efforts and resources.
- Better understanding of the organizational capabilities to enable and support sustainable improvement.

With our extensive knowledge of precast/prestressed processes, best practices, common sources of waste and solutions, we are able to work with your teams to quickly identify the improvement opportunity and priorities.

As a final thought, one of the guiding principles of lean thinking is that the status quo is not good enough. Our lean assessments provide precasters with a path to improvement. For more information or to request a detailed proposal please email info@mjsmanagement.net.