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STREAMLINING FACTORY OPERATIONS: DESIGNING AN EFFECTIVE MANUFACTURING MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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In today's highly competitive manufacturing landscape, efficient and effective management of factory operations is crucial for success. One way to achieve this is by designing a comprehensive manufacturing management program tailored to the specific needs of a factory. Such a program integrates various elements of production, quality control, inventory management, and resource optimization to streamline processes, improve productivity, reduce costs, and enhance overall performance.

The first step in designing a manufacturing management program is to assess the current state of operations. This involves conducting a thorough analysis of the existing processes, workflows, and systems in place. It is essential to identify bottlenecks, inefficiencies, and areas for improvement. This assessment can be done through process mapping, data analysis, and input from key stakeholders, including production managers, operators, and maintenance personnel.

Once the current operations are assessed, it is important to define clear objectives for the manufacturing management program. These objectives should align with the overall business goals and address the identified areas for improvement. Additionally, establishing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) is crucial for measuring the success of the program. KPIs may include metrics such as production cycle time, on-time delivery, inventory turnover, and quality defect rates.

A Manufacturing Execution System (MES) is a software platform that bridges the gap between the shop floor and the enterprise resource planning (ERP) system. It enables real-time monitoring, control, and coordination of manufacturing operations. Selecting an appropriate MES that aligns with the factory's requirements is a critical decision in designing the manufacturing management program. The MES should have features such as production scheduling, machine monitoring, quality control, and data analytics.

Incorporating lean manufacturing principles is essential for optimizing factory operations. This approach focuses on eliminating waste, reducing variation, and improving overall efficiency. Techniques such as value stream mapping, 5S methodology, standardized work procedures, and continuous improvement initiatives should be integrated into the manufacturing management program. Lean principles promote a culture of continuous improvement and waste reduction, leading to enhanced productivity and quality.

Automation and digital technologies play a significant role in modern manufacturing management. Integrating these technologies into the program can improve accuracy, speed, and reliability. Examples include the use of robotics and cobots (collaborative robots) for repetitive tasks, IoT (Internet of Things) sensors for real-time data collection, and data analytics platforms for performance monitoring and predictive maintenance. These technologies enhance efficiency, reduce errors, and provide valuable insights for decision-making.

An effective manufacturing management program requires a skilled and knowledgeable workforce. Providing training and development opportunities for employees is essential for successful implementation. Training should focus not only on technical skills but also on understanding the program's objectives, processes, and expectations. Engaging em-

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ployees in the program's design and implementation fosters a sense of ownership and commitment, leading to better adoption and results.

Designing a program for manufacturing management in factories is a strategic endeavor that requires careful analysis, planning, and implementation. By assessing current operations, defining objectives and KPIs, selecting an appropriate MES, implementing lean principles, utilizing automation and digital technologies, and investing in workforce development, factories can optimize their operations, improve efficiency, and achieve better overall performance. A well-designed manufacturing management program empowers organizations to stay competitive, adapt to changing market demands, and drive continuous improvement in their manufacturing processes.

References

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