

Manufacturing Awareness Limited Case Study – Simple Kanban

Client Industrial Brush Manufacturer

Problem Material was received from suppliers in bulk (up to 10000 components) and stored in a warehouse. When components were required, the bulk delivery of material was issued to the shop floor - further components were then ordered (in bulk) from the supplier.

Materials on the shop floor were used in batches of 8 to 400 pieces. The bulk material remained on the shop floor until it was all used - often several months

Strategy To help reduce inventory simple Kanbans were set up. In the work area. Initially the Kanbans were to be filled from the bulk stock in the warehouse. Negotiations commenced with the supplier to supply in smaller volumes and to full the line side Kanbans as necessary.

Training was given to employees involved in the principles and operation of Kanbans and how they can assist in reducing inventory and implementing flow.

Timing Over two day period, components were identified, Kanban quantities established and Kanban set up utilising existing, disused racking.

Over the next six weeks the usage and Kanban quantities were reviewed. Stocks in the warehouse were reduced and training was given to all local employees

Results Kanbans implemented
Inventory reduced
Supplier negotiations continue
Kanban quantities are periodically reduced as confidence builds

Financials To be advised

