University of Kentucky Lean Systems Program

8 Step Problem Solving Method

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY



Lean Systems Program

Institute of Research for Technology Development College of Engineering University of Kentucky



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Learning Goals

- Deepen your awareness of the importance of the 8 step process to effective problem solving
- Apply the process to your own work situation during class discussion
- Experience how the A-3 tool communicates the process thinking
- Apply in the work environment





8 Step Problem Solving Process

8 Step Process for Problem Solving

Steps	Step	Step	Step	Step	Step	Step	Step	Step
Depth	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Zero level								Tovota
Go deeply on each step								strength- standardize
▼ Complete	•	•	•	▼ Root Cause		•	▼	•



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Company Culture issue—follow each step completely

Use steps as a "check-sheet"



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1) Customer viewpoint

Think and act for the customers

**Following process is the customer





2) Confirm the Purpose of Your Work



Constantly question the purpose Seek your own answers

Keep the overall goal and purpose in focus









3) Ownership and Responsibility

- You are responsible for your work success Take pride in your work Ask:
- "What can we do something about - how can we improve our work?"







3) Ownership and Responsibility



When people detect problems, × Do not blame people ○ Appreciate people





4) Visualization

Make results and data <u>visible</u> Clarify problems for <u>everyone</u> to see Information is <u>timely</u>

Data is understandable to the work group







4) Visualization

Any variation hints there is a problem:

- O Variation in the workload
- Team member has trouble
- O Equipment or parts vary

Key Point: look for early indicators "near miss" thinking







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5) Judgment Based on Facts

Without guessing or assuming Go and See at the work place, get out of the meeting room (Genchi Genbutsu)

"Get Your Boots on!"

Investigate







6) Think and Act Persistently

- **Think deeply**
- Complete each step of problem solving process



Don't give up until results meet goal Good Process=Good Results!







7) Speedy Action in a Timely Manner

- Be adaptable to the work process needs take action quickly
- Keep at it until TRUE countermeasures
- are in place
 - -that which if implemented prevents problem from returning
- If necessary, use <u>TEMPORARY measures</u> -when a problem occurs, take action quickly







Temporary Measure

Action to stop or contain the problem--can add necessary extra work to the process (+\$/+i/+ ::)

• When a problem occurs, take action quickly

Purpose is to contain the problem, not solve it





Temporary Measure Example





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Temporary Measure Matrix

Select the optimal containment action on the following criteria:

- Simplicity
- Minimal modification to current process
- Time to implement

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	
Simplicity	10	8	7	> Rate each
Modification	9	10	5	option relative to
Time	10	9	7	each other
	29	27	17	for each
		Sum the and sele option w highests	score ct the rith the score	criteria





Temporary Measure Implementation Plan

Containment / Temporary Measure		Owner	Date	Status
Quality Check at the last operation by Team Member	1	Team Leader	7/18/2006	\bigcirc
Team Leader Checking two bundles each s part of Standardized Work	Team Leader	7/18/2006	ð	
				\oplus
				\oplus



Problem Identified

Temporary Identified











8) Thorough Communication

Thoroughly and sincerely communicate

Involve all stakeholders

Japanese concept of "Nemawashi"









Find the problem

• Fix the problem



 Keep the problem from coming back





Problems are the path toward improvement

"No one has more trouble than the person who claims to have no trouble." (Having no problems is the biggest problem of all.)

by Taiichi Ohno







A problem is ...

The <u>current situation gap</u> to the <u>standard</u> = PROBLEM

- Fact based
- Discovery driven







Non Value Added Work = Waste

Waste is any factor which does not contribute to the process by adding value. The goal of Lean is to eliminate any factors which raise cost without adding value to the product.





Motion





The 7 Wastes!





Waiting



Over Processing



Transportation

Would you like to work in this place?













8 Step Process for Problem Solving



Example of Problem A-3 Report



Example of Problem A-3 Report



Title: Reducing Manual Check Printing

MGR:	TL:	
Asst. MGR:	TM:	
GL:	TM:	



Options	Effective	ness	Budget	Speed	Quality	Overall Assessment		Com	ments	
Post clearer instructions on T/M board	x		ο	0	x	x	-Create awareness of enhancen -Help T/Ms who review board -Not helpful at home		ment	
Update instructions on form	Δ		о	ο	Δ	Δ	-Would do standard -Depende	-Would document enhancement as new standard -Dependent on T/M reading it		
Have TMR instruct T/M	Δ		0	0	Δ	Δ	-Verbally -Cannot e the instruc	-Verbally communicate the enhancer -Cannot ensure that T/M will rememb the instructions if not written down		ancement member wn
Update instructions on form along with TMR communications	O		0	Δ	0	0	-Would do Standard instruction	ocument er while conf ns	nhancemer irming the	it as new
6. Action Plan)						
Item (What) (When) Resp (Who)				Eab W/1	W2 V		g arab W/1	W/2	14/2	10/4
Draft form with clearer instructions		Т	н		VVZ V	<u>v3 vv4 ivia</u>		VVZ	113	004
Sample T/M response; revise as		Т	н			, V				

7. Monitor Both Results and Processes

Consensus/Approval throughout

Coordinate communication method

with TMR and roll out

HR

5. Countermeasure Options & Evaluation

Number of FMLA forms from TMR not meeting payroll deadline



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8. Standardize Successful Processes

Document reason for adding additional instructions to form Standardize electronic form in database with revision date Yokoten: Share the new form with other NAMC's by June 30

RK

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Step 1) Clarify the Problem

8 Steps

Proceedings

Step 1. Clarify the Problem (1) Clarify the "Ultimate Goal" of your responsibilities & work

- (2) Clarify the "Standard" of your work
- (3) Clarify the "Current Situation" of your work
- (4) Visualize the gap between the "Current Situation" and the "Standard"









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Step 1) Clarify the Problem

Visualize the gap between the "Current Situation" and the "Standard"



Step 1) Clarify the Problem

Process1. Clarify the "Ultimate Goal" of your responsibilities & work







Example: Step 1

1. Clarify the Problem

<u>Ultimate Goal:</u>	Assure TMMK cars meet customer requirement for quality
Standard:	Zero audit defects from sealer area
Current Situation:	7 water leaks on 7/28 15
	10 7 Gap=7
	5
	0 0 v
	Actual Standard





Example: Step 1

1. Clarify the Problem				
Ultimate Goal: TMs are compensated for work com	npleted and paid timely and	fairly	3300)
Standard: 100% (3300) of TM's paychecks are deposited error free	100 80	2640)	Gap=(20%) 660
Current Situation: 80% (2640) of TM's paychecks are deposited error free	GAP 60 20% (660) 60 20% checks need 40 paychecks check 20 a manual check 20	80%	100%	
	to construction 0	Curre	nt Standa	ard





Step 2) Break Down the Problem







Step 2: Break Down the Problem

- Formulating a clear, concise statement from your Gap
- The statement describes the difference between the standard and current situation
- During this step, break the large problem into smaller, more specific problems
- If you can't describe it, you can't solve it!






Prioritized Problem at the Point of Occurrence (PoO)





Narrow the problem sufficiently Classify and quantify



Priority decision: tackle the biggest impact problem FIRST





Division points to break down the problem (classify)

Car sales not meeting the target

 •By region
 •By gender

 •By age
 •By month

 •By vehicle model
 •By vehicle type etc.

Not achieving cost targets

- By department (group)
- By process
- By equipment

- By expenditure type
- By month
- By types of cutting tools, etc.









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8 Step Problem Solving (Locate Point of Occurrence)

- The point of occurrence (PoO) is the actual work element at the physical location where the problem is first seen
- For example, walk the line back. Check each work station, until you arrive at the station where the problem is no longer seen





Locate Point of Occurrence (PoO)







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How to Proceed with Step Two







Example: Step 2



Example: Step 2









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1. Do not merely write down "what to do" as a target



The cost of food will be reduced 15% within this calendar yearWhatHow muchWhen







2. Do not set up the method as a target



All employees will perform 5 evaluations per employee by March end



















Example: Step 3



Target: Eliminate 5 tail light area water leaks on Camry by 7/29







Example: Step 3

3. Target Setting

<u>**Target</u>**: Eliminate 100% late submissions of FMLA forms to meet payroll deadline by March 2009. (193 of 660 total gap)</u>





Example through Steps 1, 2, & 3



Example through Steps 1, 2, & 3



<u>**Target</u>**: Eliminate 100% late submissions of FMLA forms to meet payroll deadline by March 2009. (193 of 660 total gap)</u>













- 1) Confirm the situation at the point of occurrence
 - Investigate the potential cause efficiently
 - Problem occurs continuously or erratically?
 - Problem occurs in repeatable cycles?
 - Look at "connecting points" between processes
 - Ask: "What has changed?"





- 2) Without any prejudice
 - **X** Highly skilled employee, so can't be the cause
 - **X** Always been this way, so can't be the cause
 - × I just do/don't feel this could be the cause

Experiences and intuition are important, but do not analyze root cause without thinking deeply





3) Use "4M1E" to think about possible causes

Man (Human) Machine Material Method Environment









(Example) Bad polishing of painted parts

Man (Human): Standard work being followed?

Machine:

RPMs correct?

Material:

Correct compound?

Method:

Polishing standard correct?

Environment:

Work place temperature correct?





- Simply describe the facts
- Example : Hand was caught in the clamp

(Why?)

X T/M was in a hurry, turned on the switch, then tried to adjust part after part had shifted

(Why?)

O Hand was under the clamp O The clamp moved





Example: Welding robot stops in the middle of its operation.

Why? A fuse in the robot has blown. Why? Circuit overloaded. Why? The bearings have damaged one another and locked up. Why? There was insufficient lubrication on the bearings. Why? Oil pump on robot is not circulating sufficient oil. Why? Pump intake is clogged with metal shavings. Whv? **Root Cause** No filter on pump intake (as designed)



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How to Proceed with Step 4

Action Items	Do These Things		
<u>Item 1</u> Brainstorm possible causes	Think of all meaningful possible causes	Use best brainstorming Fast paced Time limited Don't stop to discuss Everyone participates 	Narrow the list (combine/eliminate) to select possible causes
Item 2 Get input from job performers	Go to work area or bring key people to classroom start with prioritized problem at point of occurrence	Show the narrowed list of possible causes Ask: are these real/factual? What are other causes?	
Item 3 Select the most likely cause	Decide which is factual and within your control	Ask why the selected most likely cause is chosen	Repeat at each level until arriving at root cause – make "decision tree"
Item 4 Create "why chain" apply "therefore test"	Transfer results from "decision tree" into "5 Why chain"	Check logic with "therefore test"	Repeat/do over until logic flow is clear to the root cause

Two Products for Presenting Step 4

- 1. Root cause decision tree (result of brainstorming); be able to explain what was ruled out as well as what was selected
- 2. "5 Why Chain," root cause clearly labeled, with "therefore test" (see slides 63 & 64)

Example through Step 4 Step 4) Analyze the Root Cause



*Apply the "therefore" test to check thinking





Example through Step 4 Step 4) Analyze the Root Cause



*Apply the "therefore" test to check thinking









Procedure for developing countermeasures







Develop as many potential countermeasures as possible

- Think: "what will eliminate the Root Cause"
- Don't deny potential countermeasures with preconceived ideas
- Key points when developing ideas
 - Clarify the variables/conditions
 - What can I change? Get advice from others
 - Are there any previously developed (and effective) countermeasures









Develop as many potential countermeasures as possible

[Root cause]

The pallet storage area is not large enough



Perspective	Potential Countermeasure
Where	Move to a more spacious place
When	Reduce number of pallets by changing conveyance_timing
What	Make more space by making pallet shape more compact
How	Make more space by tidying up pallets





Select the highest value added Countermeasures

Evaluate all potential Countermeasures

Consider	Question
Effectiveness	Does it truly eliminate the Root Cause? Does it meet the Target?
Cost/Manpower	Does it consider cost and time ? Does it consider the number of people required to implement/sustain
Risk	What are the risks when implementing Safety? Quality? Workability? What is the impact on previous or following work processes?





Select the highest value-added Countermeasures

Make an evaluation matrix: Countermeasure for assembling mismatched parts



Confirm the facts by interviewing related people and departments




Step 5) Develop Countermeasures

Build consensus with others

- Explain and discuss plans with all relevant parties
- Set up a cross functional committee
- Organize the meeting to present the analysis & ideas
- Hold update meetings to share latest info/progress



Present to management for approval to go forward—

A-3 format is a standardized and efficient tool

Note: thru Process step 5, planning phase is completed







Step 5) Develop Countermeasures

Develop a clear and detailed action-plan

When creating the action-plan, be sure to clearly identify the four W's of the countermeasures

Who – What – Where – When?







5. Develop Countermeasure

R.C. No spec in standard work for spatula angle

	Effort	Cost	Safety	Effectiveness	Overall
Add inspection process	Δ	Δ	0	Δ	Δ
Train T/M's in correct angle to hold spatula	Δ	0	0	0	0
Repair in CART	Х	Х	0	Х	Х

Temp Action

Add inspection key points at quality gate and feedback to T/M's - 7/28

Make a Plan

WHAT	WHO	WHERE	WHEN
			>
	8		>





5. Countermeasure Options & Evaluation

Options	Effectiveness	Budget	Speed	Quality	Overall Assessment	Comments
Post clearer instructions on T/M board	х	0	0	х	х	-Create awareness of enhancement -Help T/Ms who review board -Not helpful at home
Update instructions on form	Δ	О	0	Δ	Δ	-Would document enhancement as new standard -Dependent on T/M reading it
Have TMR instruct T/M	Δ	0	0	Δ	Δ	-Verbally communicate the enhancement -Cannot ensure that T/M will remember the instructions if not written down
Update instructions on form along with TMR communications	0	0	Δ	0	0	-Would document enhancement as new Standard while confirming the instructions





8 Steps

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Step 6. See countermeasures through With all members united, implement countermeasures with speed and persistence
Share information with others by informing, reporting and consulting
Never give up, and proceed to the next step quickly





Prompt response from the team

Be persistent







Implement Countermeasures with speed and Persistence after consensus (*Nemawashi*) building

- 1) Concentrate efforts
- 2) Check progress regularly "On-the-floor" standup at the progress boards relate to "jishuken" room









Share information with others by informing , reporting and consulting

Share bad news quickly

•Contingency plans for unforeseen risks/events







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Never give up. If you cannot achieve the expected results, try other countermeasure ideas

- 1.Planned trial and error is OK
- 2.Loop back in process if problem develops
- 3.Importance of the culture—keep going, don't pull the plug
- 4.Correct process = good results!!







6. See Countermeasure Through

Countermeasure Plan - Train T/M's in correct spatula angle

What	Who	When	Status
Rewrite Standard Work	T/L	7/28	100%
Develop Standard Work Key Points	T/L	7/29	100%
Train T/M's	T/L	7/30&31	100%
Check for 3 Shifts	T/L	8/3	100%
Remove Temp Action	T/L	7/30	100%

Additional tracking method -







6. Action Plan

Itom (What) (Whan)	Pocp (Who)	Timing							
item (vvnat) (vvnen)	Resp (WID)	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7	W8
Draft form with clearer instructions	TH	\rightarrow							
Sample T/M response; revise as needed	TH			\leftarrow	→ △				
Consensus/Approval throughout HR	RK						→∆		
Coordinate communication method with TMR and roll out	SE								→∆
Progress Checks	BJ			Ľ.	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ













Step 6. See countermeasures through

Step 7. Evaluate both results and processes

Proceedings

- (1) With all members united, implement countermeasures with speed and persistence
- (2) Share information with others by informing, reporting and consulting
- (3) Never give up, and proceed to the next step quickly
- (1) Evaluate the results and the processes, and share it with members involved
 - (2) Evaluate from three key perspectives:
 - customer's, 8 step's, and your own
- (3) Understand the reasons of success and failure











Evaluate results and processes, and share it with stakeholders

1) Evaluate the results

Evaluate whether or not the target was achieved







Evaluate results and process, and share it with stakeholders

2) Evaluate the process for achieving the results





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Evaluate results and processes, and share it with stakeholders

3) Confirm positive and negative effects

















Step 7 Expectation

Develop a tracking chart or graph (make the standard/target easy to see

- What data is needed?
- Where do we get the data?
- What is the required time period?
- Who will collect and summarize data?





Proceedings 8 Steps Clarify the "Ultimate Goal" of your responsibilities & work (2) Clarify the "Standard" of your work (3) Clarify the "Current Situation" of your work Step 1. **Clarify the problem** (4) Visualize the gap between the "Current Situation" and the "Standard" (1) Break down the problem (2) Identify the prioritized problem Step 2. (3) Specify the point of occurrence by checking the process **Break down the problem** through GENCHI GENBUTSU (1) Make a commitment (2) Set measurable, concrete and challenging targets Step 3. Set a target (1) Examine the point of occurrence and think of possible causes without prejudice (2) Gather facts through GENCHI GENBUTSU and keep asking "Why?" Step 4. (3) Specify the root cause Analyze the root cause (1) Develop as many potential countermeasures as possible (2) Narrow down the countermeasures to the most practical and effective Step 5. (3) Build consensus with others **Develop countermeasures** (4) Develop a clear and detailed action-plan











Procedure for Standardizing successful processes







Set successful process changes as new Standards

Anyone, anytime, without muda, mura, or muri can implement the method/standard

< Examples of standardization >







Share the new Standard (YOKOTEN)

<Examples of YOKOTEN>





Meeting

Hard copy or Electronic Circulation

To opposite shift





Process 3. Start the next round of KAIZEN



Standardize

Solve one problem

Repetition of problem solving Process to get best result









8. Standardize Successful Processes

Yokoten: Contact other NAMC's to confirm no problem

Follow-up: Have Pilot add special check for finish angle in Standardized work development





8. Standardize Successful Processes

Document reason for adding additional instructions to form Standardize electronic form in database with revision date Yokoten: Share the new form with other NAMC's by June 30







Example: Steps 1-8



Example: Steps 1-8

Title: Reducing Manual Check Printing





_____]

Options	Effectiveness	Budget	Speed	Quality	Overall Assessment	Comments
Post clearer instructions on T/M board	х	о	0	х	x	-Create awareness of enhancement -Help T/Ms who review board -Not helpful at home
Update instructions on form	Δ	ο	0	Δ	Δ	-Would document enhancement as new standard -Dependent on T/M reading it
Have TMR instruct T/M	Δ	0	0	Δ	Δ	-Verbally communicate the enhancemer -Cannot ensure that T/M will remember the instructions if not written down
Update instructions on form along with TMR communications	0	0	Δ	0	o	-Would document enhancement as new Standard while confirming the instructions

MGR:

GL:

Asst. MGR:

TL:

TM:

TM:

6. Action Plan



April

W1

W2

W3

W4

May

W1

8. Standardize Successful Processes

Document reason for adding additional instructions to form Standardize electronic form in database with revision date Yokoten: Share the new form with other NAMC's by June 30 W3

W2

Summary

The 8 Step Process...

A systematic pattern of work that integrates the wisdom of all "team members" resulting in continual growth and increased job satisfaction









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