



## Shop Floor Kaizen Gaining a Competitive Edge

# Shop Floor Kaizen Four Great Reasons to Support Kaizen!

**Teamwork**, not individualism, drives the Kaizen idea. Kaizen is ideal for creating a work atmosphere that rewards everyone, rather than an individual. Kaizen focuses on improving processes and products while using employee creativity to help define the way procedures and systems can be improved.

**Employee Satisfaction:** Becoming involved increases an employee's sense of worth and satisfaction on the job as they help implement the new ideas identified during Kaizen events. This simple dynamic then becomes a powerful tool in shifting a company's culture. Working together to find ways to improve quality or processes gives employees a method of bringing up their ideas and further refining them in a group setting.

**Business Performance Improvement:** A primary benefit of Kaizen is increased productivity, because workers become more involved with the decision-making process and want to see their suggestions work. But the improvements do not stop there. Companies successfully executing a strategic Kaizen plan have seen on-time delivery and quality improve, inventory and manufacturing costs decline and customer satisfaction increase.

**Improving Safety** on the work floor is another benefit of implementing Kaizen in your business. This occurs when you implement 5S which helps to bring organization and discipline to the areas where employees work, allowing better control of equipment and processes. During Kaizen events, employees are encouraged to make recommendations for making their work area safe; giving them an added responsibility to making their suggestions work. This helps cut down accident-related injuries that result in decreased production and employees taking time off from work to handle medical emergencies.

**Summary:** It is acknowledged that the blending of Lean, Six Sigma and the Theory of Constraint (TOC) improvement techniques help companies realize higher levels of business performance. It is also recognized that employees working in Kaizen-based companies generally find work to be easier and more gratifying, resulting in higher employee morale and job satisfaction. Kaizen delivers rapid improvements, challenges the status quo, and delivers performance improvement beyond the expectations of everyone involved.

**About Our Methods:** Our Shop Floor Kaizen events are made up of cross-functional teams assembled to tackle important improvement challenges. Pre-work begins 3 to 4-weeks in advance of the actual event when one of our Synergy improvement experts will spend time with your company's key contributors to complete a detailed investigation of relevant items such as policies, processes and performance issues that may contribute to delays, defects, and other inefficiencies.

From this investigation your Synergy team leader will work to develop a Kaizen plan with specific goals and objectives to be achieved during the Kaizen. The team leader will prepare a detailed pre-work sheet that our clients use to guide them through the activities that must be completed in advance of the event. The team leader will organize a weekly review to ensure you remain on track for the kaizen event.

Kaizen goals and objectives are always aligned to our client's high level business objectives. Typical goals and objectives include, but are not limited to:

*Lean is about improving the value of activities so that workers are performing duties that directly relate to the result that the customer wants and the organization needs.*

### Goals

- Improve productivity by 25% - 40%
- Reduce floor space by 20% - 40%
- Reduce work in process by 30-60%
- Reduce lead time by 20 - 45%
- Reduce cycle time by 25 – 40%

### Objectives

- Implement 5S
- Improve production/material flow
- Establish standard work
- Establish cross training matrix
- Establish defect tracking
- Establish visual controls

By setting a course that encourages standard work, reduction/elimination of waste, implementation of 5S, and deployment of visual controls, employees will continue to reap the many benefits of a Lean shop floor operation. These benefits will continue to improve the competitive position of our clients while providing a higher service level to their customers.

For companies serious about improving business performance and with the resolve to take the necessary action, Synergy Resources offers a unique combination of products and services: Strategic Business Services, Software Application Services, Continuous Improvement Services, Quality Services and Technical support to help companies achieve sustainable business performance improvement.

Call or email Synergy today to learn more about how Shop Floor Kaizen can increase your competitive advantage [sbs@synergyresources.net](mailto:sbs@synergyresources.net)