



Stand in the Circle – for Productivity

This is an easy process for line managers to identify waste events in their own facility. It does take some practice, but the investment of your time is worthwhile.

Process:

Find an area where you are out of the traffic areas, and can safely view your operational warehouse or factory. Draw an imaginary circle on the ground at that point (some sites will draw a real circle). Now block out a chunk of time in your diary whilst the operation is in full swing, minimum 30 min, but preferable 60 -90 mins. Pretend you have a meeting with your operational team for 1 hour.

Now go stand in the circle, do not interact with any one, and just watch the operational movement. At first it will seem a little silly, but persevere and after a while you will start to notice waste events. Is that bottleneck process waiting 30 sec between *every* cycle for...warehouse staff having to make multiple trips because of...operators having to leave their work area for 5 mins every time they need toan operator is wasting 3 mins every time they need to find a trolley....an operator is wasting 10 mins searching the warehouse for parts... etc

At the end of your time, you should have a list of waste issues that you can now work with your team to resolve. Pick the easy wins..buy another tool so the operator does not need to leave the area... Move the empty trolleys next to the line outfeed..introduce a Bin location system and show it on your picking slips...make operational changes to ensure the bottleneck process never needs to wait...

Each win that saves just 5 mins per 8 hour shift is a 1% productivity improvement.

So now go and make lots of them...

