

Enhanced availability through standardization

Standard and Non Standard denotes time required, costs wherever they are .If it relates to time, it means the processes. A standard process enables the operator to finish the work much faster. For mass production systems having similar processes helps a lot. If a manufacturer can not control the time factor, the results are delay in production, extra inventory, underutilization of capacity available, lower production. The standardization in process level denotes, smooth flow of material at shop level. The smooth flow in shops has to be such that if one process finishes on one machine, the material should move to the next machine on which the next process is to be carried out. The layout of machines should be such that, these are installed in sequence as per production process sequence. If the layout of machines is not proper then problems occur like increase in material handling cost, more time for production etc.

In the costs - one is material and the other is overhead. In the material, the fasteners, washers or common material items should be standardized and they should be readily available off the shelf. The manufacturer of such items is able to offer you the material at competitive prices. If you ask for an item to be made available to you only, it involves extra costs. So while designing a product, one has to pay attention as to what is readily available. If the common material is standardized then the procurement process becomes very easy. If you do follow -up for procurement of 10 items in advance, then after standardization it is required only to follow-up for only 5 items. Standardization will also be possible by standardizing the suppliers of material. Manufactures procure raw material from various suppliers, and through standardization, one can reduce the number of suppliers of raw material, which saves follow -up cost, transportation cost and ordering costs.

In standardization, material category has a large controlling area. Implementation of KANBAN is a way of standardization. It should be implemented for C -class items, that is, material having low costs but large quantity required for production. The KANBAN card helps the procurement agency in issuing a purchase order, if stocks go below minimum level. By implementing KANBAN system, flow of material will be smooth. KANBAN can also be implemented at the shop level but it is important that this should have the standardization of production process also.

The standardization should be made for A, B class components also. By standardization it is important to see that it does not affect on the functioning, quality of the product.

As regards to overheads, the standardized forms or letters save lot of time in doing it from the start. Further, it also makes a good impression to the reader wherein mistakes are avoided.

These are common logical points which are useful for enhancing availability through standardization for any type of components / products.

Thanks & Regards,

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