

SMED

Single Minute Exchange of Die

SMED projects are one of the best ways to get employees excited about their work. This will make them aware of how important it is for work to be organized to decrease losses in time and ensure that equipment starts up again as quickly as possible to do what it was designed for—**producing compliant parts.**

Traditional Method

As soon as storage space becomes limited, the first reflex of any company is to **expand.**

Why expand your warehouse?

Because: There is no place to store products

Because: Production volume is increasing

Because: The company produces large batch sizes

Because: The influence of adjustment times on costs must be decreased

Because: Adjustment times are long

These may be valid reasons for expansion, but a better solution would simply be to reduce your adjustment times.

An SMED project executed by a working committee using the Kaizen method ensures employee involvement, decreases resistance to change during the implementation of improvements and makes employees feel valued when their suggestions are put into practice. Our approach also includes follow-up to ensure that solutions are applied and results are maintained.

The effects of reducing adjustment times

Decreasing equipment adjustment times will allow you to:

- ✓ Decrease work-in-process inventories
- ✓ Decrease needed floor space
- ✓ Decrease lead times
- ✓ Decrease stock-level fluctuation
- ✓ Increase flexibility (planning and manufacturing)
- ✓ Possibly increase your range of products
- ✓ More evenly balance factory workloads
- ✓ Streamline production and create a more reactive workflow

Our methodology:

1. Employees are educated about the project.
2. Group training is given on concepts related to lean manufacturing.
3. A video is made to record and list all operations of the current changeover method in order to analyze them.
4. Internal operations (machine is stopped) are separated from external operations (machine is operating).
5. The operations that can be performed while the machine is operating are compiled.
6. Internal operations are converted to external operations.
7. Internal and external operation times are streamlined.
8. Benefits are assessed.
9. Costs are assessed.
10. A presentation is given to managers.
11. An action plan is drafted.
12. A supervisory committee is formed.