Cost Savings: Lean Six Sigma Tools

Inventory Reduction Assessment
Customers that take advantage of Fastenal inventory management solutions typically see significant reductions in inventory. Our inventory management specialists can design an inventory system using Six Sigma practices, minimizing risk while maximizing cash flow and productivity.

Process Waste Analysis
Utilizing waste identification tools, Fastenal schedules site observation time to recommend which solutions are the best fit for your business.

Workstation Design
Fastenal can assess your workflow processes to design a more efficient system with fewer non-value-added steps. We’ll provide the necessary CAD layout and new workstation solutions to eliminate waste and improve productivity.

Just-in-Time (JIT) Systems
JIT systems are designed to minimize in-process inventory by “pulling” components through production based on market demand. Fastenal can support your JIT system by helping you track how much inventory a job requires to run for a specified time interval, then tailoring a program to replenish inventory “just in time” to go into production. Our local stores can replenish product weekly, daily, or even several times a day, depending on your needs. We can also hold safety stock which can be delivered within an hour.

Kanban (Inventory Signaling System)
Kanban is a JIT pull system that utilizes visible markers, such as cards or strategically sized containers, to clearly display when additional inventory is required for production. If kanban is right for your company, Fastenal can work with you to implement and manage a kanban bin system that’s built around your production process. If you already utilize kanban, we can help you identify new system efficiencies, including creating an in-plant storeroom providing dedicated on-site service and product.

Kaizen (Continuous Improvement)
Kaizen promotes a constant, collaborative effort among management and workers to eliminate waste from production. Fastenal believes that your supplier also has a key role to play in kaizen. We’ll work closely with your company’s local facilities to identify the cost drivers associated with production, as well as the potential savings that can be achieved through ongoing process improvements.

6S
Fastenal utilizes 6S control and sustain methods. We also assist customers with the development of 6S programs to begin their journey towards change management and lean transformation. Sort, Systematic Organization, Standardize, Shine, Sustain, and Safety are the basic pillars of our lean control methods.

Kitting Analysis
Fastenal combines critical production materials into a more efficient package to reduce production time.