

PACKAGING DIVISION GOES LEAN

ABOUT SOLVECHEM, INC. A division of SolvChem, SolvChem Custom Packaging Division is a full-service contract packager based in Pearland, Texas. With a team of around 35 employees, the division provides a full array of custom chemical solutions to manufacturers and marketers of industrial and consumer products around the world. In addition to custom blending, filling, and packaging services for both water and solvent-based products, SolvChem Custom Packaging is known for its expertise in hazardous and flammable chemicals.

THE CHALLENGE. SolvChem management needed a clearer understanding of how the Custom Packaging operation was performing in order to meet the division's production, quality, and cost goals. The company called on TMAC Gulf Coast (TMAC-GC), part of the MEP National Network, as part of an ongoing effort to deliver excellence in quality and service to customers. TMAC-GC agreed to help the company not only locate and resolve areas of inefficiency, but also develop strategies for overall improvement.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. An onsite evaluation by TMAC-GC revealed that production synchronization and maintenance issues were having a negative impact on SolvChem's productivity, quality, and safety. This led to high operational costs due to excessive overtime, delays, errors, and rework.

TMAC-GC led the company through a "Hoshin Kanri" strategic session to give management a better understanding of the improvements needed and help them develop an action plan. The plan included training in Lean principles for SolvChem employees to move the company toward a Continuous Improvement culture as they prepared to embrace additional changes.

Next, TMAC-GC worked with SolvChem to reconfigure the warehouse to improve flow and minimize product handling. The company devised a new labeling system to allow for quick access by forklift drivers, reducing congestion and improving safety. It also implemented cycle counting to improve inventory management. SolvChem reduced time spent on product retrieval and inventory management by significant margins, reducing overtime and improving quality.

"TMAC-GC provided across-the-board employee training and preparation, team building workshops and exercises, facility layout and technical production improvement implementation, leadership coaching, and strategic deployment exercises. All in all, their focused efforts have resulted in a remarkable set of productivity, morale, efficiency, and quality improvements in our company."

-Mark Hacas, Chief Operating Officer

RESULTS



Reduced time spent on inventory management by **30%**



Reduced time spent on product retrieval by **25%**



Reduced forklift congestion and improved safety



Improved workplace morale and developed Continuous Improvement culture

CONTACT US



202 E. Border Street
Suite #323
Arlington, TX 76010



(800)625-4876



www.tmac.org

