SUCCESS WITH LEAN MANUFACTURING, TRAINING WITHIN INDUSTRY, AND LEAN SIX SIGMA

ABOUT CURRIER PLASTICS, INC. Currier Plastics provides custom molding solutions, delivering products its customers depend on for safety and security. From health and beauty to food and beverage, Currier Plastics covers design through delivery with an unrivaled assurance of quality. The company is based in Auburn, New York, with around one hundred employees.

THE CHALLENGE. For nearly a decade, Currier Plastics has relied on expertise from the Central New York Technology Development Organization (CNYTDO), a division of the New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) and part of the MEP National Network. When the company noticed gaps in its Lean Manufacturing and Quality Assurance practices following a growth period, it reached out to CNYTDO for further assistance. Company leaders were interested in improving knowledge levels, training practices, manufacturing efficiencies, problem solving, and competitiveness.

MEP CENTER’S ROLE. CNYTDO assisted Currier Plastics with a Lean Transformation, Training Within Industry Job Relations and Job Methods (TWI-JR & JM) training, Training Within Industry International Training Management System (TWI-ITMS) certification, Lean Six Sigma Green Belt training, and KPI / Visual Factory training. Individuals across all departments and functional areas participated in the engagement, and the Lean Six Sigma training included three Green Belt projects. Currier Plastics employees developed skills in improving methods, leadership, and job instruction through CNYTDO’s programs, forming the core of the company’s training system.

Currier Plastics is benefitting from improved efficiencies, training times, training effectiveness, and floor space utilization, realizing the promise of Lean and Lean Six Sigma. The changes reduced turnover, minimized downtime, generated cost savings, and increased the company’s rate of passed audits. The TWI-ITMS certification will help Currier Plastics to continue to support the growth of its frontline leaders by allowing them to see how leadership, planning, support, operation, performance evaluations, and improvements all play an equal role in the company’s success.

"CNYTDO has once again been the catalyst and ‘trusted advisor’ in helping us take another step towards operational excellence. The positive impact that the highly skilled CNYTDO trainers have had at Currier Plastics has been significant and sustained through many changes over the years. I look forward to our future relationship with CNYTDO and the many successful steps ahead leading us to operational excellence."

-Scott Reilly, Continuous Improvement Manager

RESULTS

- 0% turnover in supervisory ranks, 50% larger pool of back-up leads
- $40,000 saved in improved methods YTD
- 3 Green Belt projects underway
- 10% increase in completed training and a 10% increase in passed audits
- 60% increase in shift turnover participation, 10% drop in downtime since training

CONTACT US

625 Broadway
ESD, Division of Science, Technology & Innovation (NYSTAR)
Albany, NY 12245
(518)292-5729
www.esd.ny.gov/nystar/nymep.asp

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