

## LOADMASTER: IMPROVING PROCESS FLOW WITH LEAN

**ABOUT LOADMASTER.** Loadmaster manufactures truck bodies for the refuse and recycling disposal industry. Offering comprehensive solutions from fabrication and assembly to paint and quality control, Loadmaster provides durable trucks to dealerships and municipalities from the East Coast across the Midwest. Loadmaster employs 85 at their Norway, Mich., location.

**THE CHALLENGE.** Andrew Brisson, Vice President of Loadmaster, identified an opportunity to improve process flow in production. With this goal in mind, Loadmaster wanted to increase current capacity of 4.8 trucks per week to 6.0 trucks per week using existing resources.

**MEP CENTER'S ROLE.** To address the goals set forth by Loadmaster, the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center - Northern Initiatives performed a Lean operational assessment, placing their focus on the fabrication area. A variety of Lean techniques and methods were then applied, including Value Stream Mapping, material flow analysis, evaluation of Make-to-Stock production and Quick Changeover/Single Minute Exchange of Die. Through this process, the team was able to identify a number of areas in production to improve upon in order to increase productivity and capacity.

"Collaborating with the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center – Northern Initiatives to complete the Lean operational assessment was easy. They made our employees partners in the success of the process. We will definitely consider assessments for improving additional areas of our business in the future."

-Andrew Brisson, Vice President

## RESULTS



**\$200,000** for a Vertical Machining Center, dramatically reduced time for the drilling process.



**\$30,000** freeing up an employee previously needed on manual drill press



**55** man hours saved by moving an employee into a value-added position



**85** retained jobs



Increased capacity from **4.8** trucks per week to the targeted 6.0 trucks per week

## CONTACT US



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