

CASE STUDY: MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE LTD



EMTA Awards Limited
Part of the SEMTA Group



Category: Training provider
Region: Yorkshire
Sector: Lean manufacturing and business

In focus:
Business-Improvement Techniques (B-IT)
NVQ – Level 2, 3 and 4
VRQ – Level 2

Adopting new approaches helps employers maintain productivity and competitiveness in the workplace. Developed to National Occupational Standards, EAL's Business-Improvement Techniques (B-IT) qualifications use the philosophies of lean manufacturing to eliminate waste, reduce costs and boost productivity.

- Master the tools and techniques of continuous improvement and lean manufacturing.
- Maximise revenue by eliminating waste, reducing variation and preventing defects.
- Improve responsiveness by making effective use of people and physical assets.

Centre profile:

Manufacturing Excellence Ltd is one of the North's leading specialists in lean and agile manufacturing consultancy and training. The company has helped British Thornton, a large independent furniture manufacturer, to introduce improvement projects using B-IT. As a result lead times on major products have been reduced by 25%.

“For an average investment of £5,500 in lean and agile training and assessment, manufacturing companies are recouping over £43,000 of financial benefits per year. We recommend EAL as the awarding body for B-IT because we find them to be commercially aware. Their external verifiers have an industrial background which is beneficial to discussions with learners.”

Roger Lees, operations director, Manufacturing Excellence Ltd

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The challenge:

British Thornton, the largest independent manufacturer of school furniture in the UK, saw the marketplace expanding and needed to improve the capacity of its processes to meet customer needs. The company wanted to improve lead times, capacity and quality performance.

The solution:

As well as agreeing quantifiable and sustainable goals, Manufacturing Excellence recommended that 71 key members of staff sign up to EAL's B-IT NVQs at Level 2. Employees undertook a series of on-site training sessions and workshops to look at organisation techniques and identify ways of adopting continuous improvement in manufacturing and business processes.

The results:

Team meetings were held at shift changeover times, with additional sessions to create visual management systems. Lead times have been reduced by 25% on major product lines, with significant increases in 'on-time' delivery and product quality. The new working practices have also helped to monitor production areas more closely and have led to an improved evaluation of new machinery.

The benefits:

There has been a significant increase in team-working across all functions, leading to a more motivated workforce. This in turn has led to improved productivity. Even physical changes to the layout of certain workspaces have encouraged workers to think about how they organise their time and working environment.

The future:

British Thornton has already made a commitment to carry out more project work to complement and underpin its progress. This will include further B-IT training at NVQ Level 3.

For the latest information, please visit www.eal.org.uk or contact Customer Services on:

Tel: +44 (0)870 240 6889

Fax: +44 (0)870 240 6890

Email: customercare@eal.org.uk

www.eal.org.uk