



SIEMENS Improvement of depot stores operations

The Challenge

The Siemens Traincare facility in Northam undertakes the overhaul and maintenance of the class 444 and class 450 fleets for South West trains.

Unipart Expert Practices were approached by Siemens Traincare to assist in the improvements of their depot stores operations and the effectiveness of the stores processes within their Northam facility in Southampton, and to develop new standards that could be progressively rolled out to all Siemens depot stores operations within the United Kingdom.

The Solution

In preparation for the commencement of the Lean project Siemens Traincare staff attended Unipart Expert Practices 1 week Lean Academy. The Lean Academy is designed to teach Lean tools and techniques that will be used within their project and provide an opportunity to practice them.

The Northam stores project commenced immediately after the Lean Academy, with the team focusing on mapping the current state processes with the stores staff in order to understand the current ways of operating and developing the requirements of the operation.

The solution brought a new proactive approach to running a depot stores with standard and highly visible processes through the use of visual management.

Line side storage and kitting was implemented at the point of use to improve the service provided by the stores to the operations team and impact positively on their exam regime. Work place audits were implemented involving all levels of the business to underpin sustainment of the changes made.

As a result of the success within Northam the standard solution was then rolled out into 6 further depots at Northampton, Shields, York, Ardwick, Ilford and Acton.

"The huge volumes of materials transactions processed on a daily basis whilst responding to a demanding supply chain on this particular site made it difficult to control and maintain an accurate inventory - By putting some basic organisation into the daily routine across the stores, materials and production functions utilising Unipart Rail's Expert Practices has allowed the team on-site to turn their operation into a slick efficient process.

Engaging the team in the lean continuous improvement approach has been a significant success in that they now have a sense of ownership and shared responsibility in working together to maintain the excellent standards set. Establishing robust solutions together when problems arise is a culture shift that I am extremely proud of, this now gives the team more satisfaction in their jobs. Without doubt and I believe the team would agree, the environment in which they now work in is a much better place to the one they came from!"

John Timons, Head of Rolling Stock Materials, Siemens



The Result

- Improvement of Stock Accuracy from 88% to 99%
- Increase in material availability from 95% to 98% at point of use
- Siemens Lean Champion capability
- Standard processes that were subsequently rolled out across all Siemens depot store operations
- Engaged workforce with the ability to identify and resolve issues

The standard solution designed in Northam has provided Siemens Traincare with a standardised depot approach across its stores functions. This has subsequently been rolled out across the other 6 depot stores, where similar benefits have been seen.

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