



Depot Stores Diagnostic

The Challenge

Southern Railway manage 157 railway stations from London to the South coast. They provide 2284 services a day delivering 447,000 passenger journeys with a fleet of 295 vehicles.

Southern Railway approached Unipart to conduct a strategic review of their spares and storage capacity across all of their four depots, with the objective of generating a storage strategy that would meet the changing needs of the business, without a major investment in capital.

The Solution

Our Expert Practitioners followed a structured approach to the review activity that included:

- Completion of Depot site visits to establish storage footprints, classify existing storage media and understand the storage space available
- Mapping of the physical storage locations to the warehouse management system data
- Documentation of the material and information flow
- Review of historic demand to validate existing Inventory parameters and identify the velocity of material
- Development of new storage layouts for each location, incorporating Lean principles that would meet the future business needs
- Development of standardised processes that would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the stores operation
- An implementation plan to deliver the improvements

“Unipart have been working with us for some time and have consistently helped us to deliver our improvement programme. They have provided training, coaching and support to develop our levels of capability and embed our continuous improvement culture within our business. It was an obvious choice to ask them to support the review of our storage strategy to meet the needs of the changing business. New layouts, material flows and processes have been implemented that has improved the efficiency of the team.”

John Killen, Fleet Manager Southern Railway



The Result

Our ability to work with a client to develop the appropriate storage strategy for their business is a key component in ensuring that the future needs of the business can be achieved. With Southern Railways we created a strategy that is built on Lean principles and will enable the capacity needs of additional fleets to be met in the short and long term. All of the activity to date has enabled Southern Railway to achieve:

- **Improvements in the layout to realise an additional 40% storage capacity within the existing footprint**
- **Identification of opportunities for Inventory reduction and Inventory relocation between sites to realise financial benefits**
- **Improvements to flow of materials**
- **Ability to grow storage locations for new fleets without additional warehousing required**

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