



PRODUCTION PRACTICES AND PRODUCT FLOW IMPROVEMENTS ADD SPEED AND CAPACITY

The Problem

Tremendous growth and product flow problems began to bog down operations in a well known door and window manufacturer in the mid-south. This company chose The ACCESS Group (TAG) to lead their efforts to smooth product fabrication and assembly processes and eliminate large and disorganized product build-ups prior to shipping.



The TAG Team Solution

TAG Associates began with basic workplace organization tools (5S) to eliminate space consuming materials and identify available production space within the facility. As scrap, obsolete, and seldom used materials were eliminated, the flow of the plant could be re-planned and product flow could be organized. TAG facilitated the development of a layout that would allow the operations to move toward continuous flow operations and to define those support systems that would help eliminate bottlenecks. Material requirements for in-line processing and assembly were identified and prioritized. Material handling and storage devices were analyzed and line presentation requirements developed. Tool storage and accessibility, line flexibility, and safety issues were defined and targeted for change.

The Outcome

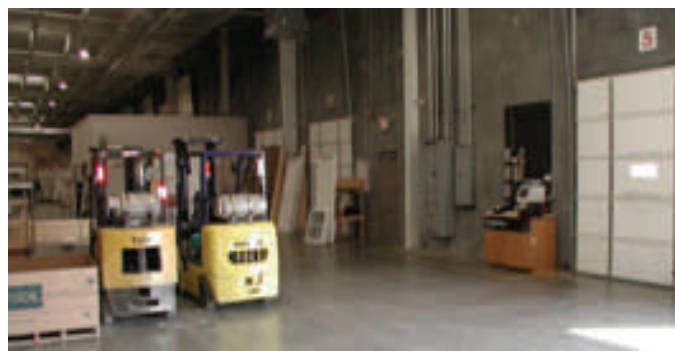
With workplace organization and lean flow planning complete, TAG Associates and their client counterparts devised a plan for rearranging the entire production layout within the facility while maintaining normal delivery requirements for the customers. As the process lines were moved and reoriented for smooth flow, line side storage of high use materials was put into place.

This included the design and procurement of gravity flow racking, greater use of facility space (vertical height), improved handling access for material, and significantly reduced travel distances for parts and materials.

Many of the storage areas allowed the materials to be replenished without impacting production usage and also ensuring FIFO use of materials without extra handling. Many materials previously provided to the line by forklift on pallets were now accessed as needed by piece and directly by hand into the machine point of use.

Aisle-ways and production flow patterns were developed and implemented where none existed before. Moving seldom used and off-fall materials out of the production areas provided significant room for growth, maneuverability, and process line improvements.

Time – Space – Cost – Safety. The improvements in this plant resulted in significant improvements in product flow and usable space within the plant increased by at least 15%. Products were moved from assembly into specific staging locations and on some occasions directly onto the outbound truck when leaving the production line. Factory visibility was increased and the precise work area organization improved productivity, product quality, and morale. Safety hazards were identified and eliminated. The search times for part and components decreased substantially and handling, movement time, and transportation damage were reduced significantly. Plant capacity has increased and customer lead times were reduced from three days to two (and the push is on for one day lead time on many products). Overtime in shipping was reduced by 80%. Many of the improvements established at this facility were then transferred by TAG Associates to a sister facility in another city with equal success and results.



Overtime in Shipping was reduced by 80%!

For information on how TAG can assist you call: 877-824-3647 or visit www.tag.bz

*“Helping Companies Do Today What Others Won’t...
...So That Tomorrow, They Can Do What Others Can’t.”*

