



SPECIALTY PRINTING LLC

Label Manufacturers

The Specialty Printing Company, an innovative products packaging and labeling manufacturer, headquartered in East Windsor, CT, has enjoyed a Lean transformation with the guidance and coaching from Leanovations, LLC an internationally recognized Lean consulting company, with funding aid from the CL&P PRIME Program and the ADI (Aerospace and Defense Initiatives), and our results are impressive. Specialty's major product line is Labels for scale labels, retail and postal, with special labeling and packaging for the medical and military industries.

Specialty Printing conducted 12 Lean events from 2007 through 2009 under the guidance of Leanovations, LLC a Lean Consulting Company from Plainville, CT. where the focus was on creating new capacity to meet the 25% growth Specialty was enjoying and to develop an internal culture of continuous improvement. The key to Specialty's success was in meeting the additional business growth, therefore the Lean projects focused on increasing press uptime, creating speed by reducing lead-time, enhancing the scheduling system by creating visual triggers and improving quality through reducing paper waste and improving job bag instructions.

Creating a "Visual Factory" engaging all employees with the ability to recognize normal versus abnormal, reducing unscheduled downtime due to material shortages, and improving the accuracy/quality of pre-kitting the dies, plates, inks and job instructions prior to scheduling the production run was addressed by the organization through Kaizen Team events.

The Press Run time continued to increase and improving over 61%, in November and December being the biggest months in production "footage" in company history. Set-Up reduction was a focus with establishing a "Pit Crew" concept that drove the average time for set-up down by 53%, creating an additional 1000 run hours per month. With the new capacity created through set-up improvements, increased throughput and reduced paper waste the company was able to stop a planned purchase of a new press, saving the company over \$500,000.

Establishing a "Visual Material Replenishment System" with a "Press Flag System" and creating a place for everything and everything in its place in the warehouse, using the "Press Flag" system and incorporating a Kanban bus route for material handlers has paid huge dividends in reducing Press Downtime waiting for material by 84% (from 10-12% to under 2%). The next logical evolution to the material replenishment system was to involve external suppliers. This was accomplished by incorporating a "Faxban" with key external suppliers of cores, boxes and paper which will eliminate stock-outs of the high runners, providing the ability to run the majority of products within 24 hours of receiving a customer order.

With Leanovations coaching and constant-gentle-pressure that they provide and the development of our own Internal Lean Experts, who attended Leanovations Lean Certification Program recognized by the State of Connecticut, and through CL&P's PRIME and ADI's funding, Specialty Printing will enjoy our journey and take "**PRIDE**" in our Lean Transformation "**P**rogress **R**equires **I**deas **D**edication & **E**ffort".

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