Laying the foundations of OEE Improvement

FORBO FLOORING IS A GLOBAL MANUFACTURER and supplier of world class, resilient and textile flooring. With 12 manufacturing plants globally and branches spanning 32 countries, they are a world leader for floor coverings, boasting a market share of over 60%.

Similar to many global companies, Forbo are experiencing increased pressure on keeping costs low, whilst maintaining high quality and efficiency output. To help monitor these factors, Steve Wilson – Project and Process Engineering Manager; along with other project managers implemented Idhammar's OEE system following a conscious move towards lean manufacturing and reporting analysis.

Understanding what is expected of the OEE System

Initially, requirements of the OEE system were to identify stoppages and unplanned downtime on production lines. It was clear there were process issues, but without any solid data it was hard to make a business case to replace machinery and forecast results once replacements had been made. The reporting tool was an especially attractive part of the system, with various dashboards and graph formats allowing clear comparisons to be made.

Implementing Idhammar's OEE System

Following a spreadsheet based OEE exercise which enabled users to understand what data was required for the metric and to build an awareness of how the OEE was calculated, Forbo started the implementation process by trialling Idhammar's OEE system on a single line. Once the trial was complete and users were happy with the collection of specific data, and understanding the reporting functionality of the system, Forbo rolled out the OEE system to currently cover approximately 70% of their tasks.

The Idhammar OEE system, still in its infancy stages has been operating across the majority of factory floor tasks for twelve months, with the analysed data being monitored accordingly. Current data collection is being used for important KPIs – highlighting the biggest and long-term losses, meaning management have the opportunity to drive improvement; allowing visibility and transparency of improvements being made and the ability to quantify improvement efforts.

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Increasing task coverage to 95%

Following the successful implementation of OEE across most of the site, Forbo are looking forward to rolling out the system across a further 20-25% of their lines, bringing the amount of tasks covered by Idhammar's OEE system up to 90-95%. There are plans to include further modules of the system including Andon boards, email and text communication. Andon boards display real-time information of activity on specific lines at any given moment. Email and text communication are a way of notifying users of any issues or incidents that have happened, directly to their connected device, regardless of where they are on site.

Unexpected benefits

Steve notes a further unexpected benefit to original objectives and scope of the project in that team members are more willing to take ownership of work done on their shift, or specific piece of machinery, improving their responsibility commitment.

Happy customers

The feedback received from Forbo regarding implementation and subsequent day-to-day usage of Idhammar's OEE system has been positive. Users have adopted the system well and management have been able to make valuable decisions following reports taken from data collected from lines.

> " We were looking for a system that could help us build a business case to replace machinery when needed. We wanted facts and figures, which could show results of such efforts. Idhammar's OEE system has been a good solution to our needs. "

STEVE WILSON
FORBO

For any further information on Idhammar's OEE or to see how these systems can benefit your procedures, please get in touch:

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