

> **Lean Consulting Services**

- Factory Planning and Production Planning
- Lean Logistics Planning
- Improving Production Efficiency
- Improving Office Efficiency
- Successful Change Management

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Addressing Logistics

As lean practices catch on, manufacturing companies everywhere are taking a closer look at their production line to determine where and how they can be more efficient. But what about their logistics systems? All too often, we see businesses focusing on production, and forgetting that logistics are an essential part of the efficiency equation.

When looking at ways to streamline your business operation, it's always best to start from the inside out. At the center is production the heart of all manufacturing. Using the automotive industry as an example, the center would be the production of a car from start to finish. But beyond that inner circle are the different levels of logistics that are essential to making that central activity happen. For automotive, the first outer circle includes the logistics of moving the car through the production line. The second outer circle is about getting the parts from the warehouse to the line. The third outer circle addresses the handling of parts within the warehouse itself, while the fourth and final outer circle deals with bringing parts from outside sources into the warehouse.

To effectively assess and streamline logistics, the key is to look at the activities within each circle. Start by analyzing each and determining the tools and processes that are specific to each one. Consider the size of your parts, the equipment that may be required to transport them, how they will be tracked, and the capacity you may need in the warehouse. Aim to make each circle as lean and as efficient as possible, while also ensuring that they work effectively together towards the common goal: production.



AWARD:
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Once you've completed your analysis, the next step is engaging your team. Talk to them about the current state of affairs; their input will enable you to better identify areas of waste as well as areas for improvement. Coupled with your previous analysis, this insight will enable you to set some clear targets for change. The next step, of course, is to start implementing that change and continue to pursue ongoing improvement, even after you've achieved your initial goals. It's important to always keep an eye on how things are working, and if further improvements and adjustments can be made.

Ready to get started? Be sure to start small. The smart approach is to tackle one circle at a time, rather than all at once, which can end up being inefficient and counterproductive. Establish realistic goals with smaller projects you can achieve, then move on to the next. Good luck!

For more information about how you can achieve logistics efficiency, contact us contactICA@ingenics.com



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