

Waste of Excessive Inventory Checklist

PREPARATION STEPS

- Schedule 60 minutes for team training session
- Set up training area with whiteboard or poster-board – have markers available
- Write “Waste of Excessive Inventory” on the board
- Have the Waste of Excessive Inventory audio loaded on device and ready to play aloud during the session
- Print a copy of the Waste of Excessive Inventory Notes for each person to be trained
- If needed, refresh your own knowledge of waste and root cause – see The Essence of Lean Chapter 6, pp. 65-71.
- Preview listen to the Waste of Excessive Inventory audio

1) Welcome the team and explain the purpose of the session

- Give out the copies of the Waste of Excessive Inventory Notes
- Give brief explanation of waste and why it is important.

(Waste is any activity that does not produce value for customers or for the organization. Waste is the problem. Reducing waste increases performance. There are seven types of waste – “Excessive Inventory” is one of the seven.)

The purpose the session is to learn:

- a) What is excessive inventory waste?*
- b) Who cares – why is that important?*
- c) How to find and eliminate excessive inventory?*

2) Listen to the Waste of Excessive Inventory audio (9 minutes, 8 seconds)

3) Ask them to explain what they just heard (in their own words)

4) Ask them to come up with examples of excessive inventory waste that they may have observed in the organization.

Write each example on the whiteboard and discuss how excessive inventory might have increased cost, caused delay, hid defects and created overloaded storage areas.

Note: In discussing the excessive inventory, be sure to caution the associates NOT to assign blame to specific individuals for these defects – rather, just come up with examples and discuss their consequences. Remember Ground Rule #1: “Blame the System, Not the Person.”

5) Optional assignment to be completed by _____ (date)

Option 1: Find more examples of excessive inventory waste and add them to the whiteboard list.

Option 2: Pick one example of excessive inventory waste and come up with ideas for reducing or eliminating that waste.