

Operation Smooth Brews



Making Every Drop Count

About Euclid Beverage

- In operation for over 50 years distributing beer to Chicago and western suburbs
- 10,000 – 100,000 cases of beer shipped per day
- Over 200 varieties of beer
- 25-30 individual routes delivered to daily
- 130+ employees

Euclid Beverage Warehouse

230,000 sq. ft.
warehouse facility

Located in
North Aurora

Statement of Problem

- Sponsor Objective:
 - Evaluate warehouse operation efficiency and supply a list of recommendations for improvement

Our Goals

- Audit Euclid Beverage's warehouse systems and equipment
 - Create process map
 - Examine Official vs. Actual processes
 - Determine changes we, the IPRO team, think they should implement to improve operations.

Team Structure

- Efficiency Improvement
 - Basel (Cycle Counting Process)
 - Soren (Road-Net System)
 - Kyle (Beer Order Entry Process)
 - June (On Board System)
 - Kiyomi (Hot Shots/Add-on Process)
 - Rob (Receiving/Pack List Process)
- Reduce Mistakes
 - Andrew (Picking Process)
 - Hee (Picking Process)
 - William (Replenishment Process)
 - Rich (Management Reporting)

Team Operation

- Problem-based structure
 - Group identifies problems
 - Distribute problems to team members
 - Creates increased individual accountability
 - Sub-teams form naturally as related solutions cause people to work together

Euclid Visits

- Meet with management
- Interview workers
- Observe work
- Test Hypothesis
- Get feedback
- Present results



Results

- Process maps
 - Delivered actual process maps based on our interviews and research
- Recommendations
 - 6 recommendations decided upon
- Performance Tracking Spreadsheet
 - Proof of concept for our database recommendation

Process Maps



Recommendations

- Greater flexibility in warehouse software
- Identify bottlenecks and opportunities to delegate
- Investigate effectiveness of voice technology in all tasks
- Product rationalization for small volume items
- Database
 - Consolidation of reports
 - Performance tracking and metrics
 - Visibility of errors and their costs
 - Prioritization of problems

Obstacles

- Difficulty of site visits
 - Distance
 - Three shifts – 24 hour operation
 - Time overlap with other classes
 - Solution: sub-teams visits
- Lack of information and experience
 - Solution: Get out there and see it
- Broad scope of problem
 - Solution: Break down task into smaller pieces and divide among team members
- Confidentiality
 - Solution: Work with client to develop rules for information handling, especially for this presentation

What we Learned

What did we learn which was not specific to the project?

Initial assumptions must be tested because they're probably wrong

Verify everything: get multiple sources

There is no one right answer, but there are many wrong answers, so speak up when something looks wrong.

Questions?