

Six Sigma Academy Amsterdam 2016 ©

Exercise Topic: Visual Workplace And 5S

Exercise 1: Name four reasons to have floor markings.

Exercise 2: The last phase of 5S is the 'sustain part.' How can you make sure that the gains are sustained?

Exercise 3: What is the benefit of 'Andon?'

See next page for answers

Answers

Answer exercise 1:

Reason 1: To indicate the correct spot to store tools or inventory.

Reason 2: To easily spot when something (e.g. a tool) is missing.

Reason 3: To indicate correct paths. This saves you time, especially when you are working with temps who do not know the work floor. Instead of describing them the correct way to move inventory from A to C, you simply tell them to follow a certain colored line.

Reason 4: For safety reasons. One might create safe zones that workers can use so that they do not unintentionally walk into hazardous situations.

Answer exercise 2:

By assigning precise tasks to owners of workspace and periodic auditing. For instance, Veejay might be responsible for workspace 12A. He has received clear instructions on what he has to do. He knows for instance, how often to clean and how to clean. He is also aware of the fact that at the end of the day, each tool must be stored in the designated spot, which is clearly marked. Periodical audits will ensure compliance.

Answer exercise 3:

Andon signals are a great way to increase speedy problem recognition. Imagine that something went wrong in the self-service check-in terminal at an airport. If a person has a problem, it will take a while before that person realizes he/she has a problem and starts looking for the supervisor to get help. Furthermore, this person might not know what to do and whom to contact. Valuable time is lost. The andon principle ensures that there is an immediate and clear visual signal displayed that alerts the supervisor of the problem. Less valuable time is lost.

