

Lean & Six Sigma Friends or Foes

Lean and Six Sigma ... You need both! They both work!

A Six Sigma environment without a Lean framework will yield marginal results.

A Lean environment without Six Sigma tools will also yield marginal results.

Regardless of the methodology used to yield an improvement on a specific opportunity, the emphasis is on capturing the knowledge gained and communicating this effectively to the personnel involved in the process and in so doing, building knowledge into the process.

Currently there is a lot of discussion about Lean Sigma

Lean Sigma is the natural evolution of Lean and Six Sigma initiatives.

Both provide a myriad of problem-solving and improvement techniques that have their place in the continuous improvement toolkit. Lean initiatives leverage a bias for action and employee knowledge via a team-focused process. All employees can understand and apply Lean techniques and be effective at eliminating waste in manufacturing and non-manufacturing processes. Lean is the elimination of waste using the principles of the Toyota Production System. (A "Way of Thinking")

Six Sigma is the application of more complex statistical methods that, if used appropriately, should be targeted at variation reduction and problems that teams and Lean tools find difficult to address. Six Sigma is the elimination of variation using the DMAIC process and statistical tools. (A "Process for Improvement")

Typically these tools are not for use by the general population.

Combine both sets of techniques and an organisation has an effective footprint for continuous improvement.

Lean is more cost effective than six sigma, true lean is simple and easy to implement on a faster scale and from a production standpoint is a simple and quick way to minimize cost.

But can lean help in minimizing product/process variance? Can lean help in minimizing scrap levels?

Those companies that survive, improve and flourish will have the resources and culture to apply the right set of tools from both toolkits in the right situations. Some companies are structured with one Continuous Improvement organisation, at a corporate level, that splits into Lean and Six Sigma. The intent is to address skill sets and harmonize the two.

Can your company afford to overlook the impact that both Lean and Six Sigma methodologies can yield? By utilising one in preference to the other companies are only partially tackling the issues and challenges that they have.

For more information contact lean@globalpharmanetworks.com



Global Pharma Networks

128 Lower Baggot Street
Dublin 2
Ireland

Tel: 353 1 6392928

Fax: 353 1 6392920

email:

sales@global-networksgroup.com

website:global-networksgroup.com

Profile Solutions Ltd.

Registered office: 61 Beaubec, Dublin Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth, Ireland

Directors: Michael J. McMahon, John Doherty

Vat No: IE 6366093G

Registered No: 346093

All information contained in this document is confidential to Global Pharma Networks and Profile Solutions Ltd. and may not be disclosed to 3rd parties without the written consent of the Directors of Profile Solutions Ltd.