



# Four Ways To Better Production Efficiency



“Epicor has enabled Lakeside Plastics to not only survive during the most difficult years of the automotive industry; it has provided the company with a competitive advantage that has allowed us to grow and expand.”

Glenn Coates, President | Lakeside Plastics

## Introduction

Imagine what you could do with real-time monitoring and control for your production and process manufacturing operations. You could improve productivity, work more efficiently and profitably, and make better decisions based on the manufacturing performance of your plant or entire enterprise. You can do all this with the help of a Manufacturing Execution System (MES).

This white paper highlights four ways to better your production efficiency with a manufacturing execution system.

## The Steps

### Step 1: Manage Family Molds

Family molding can be a real challenge, but it gets easier with an MES designed to handle these complex scenarios.

An MES designed to help you control the scheduling and cost reporting for all the different parts made within a family will allow you to effectively monitor the scrap and costs associated with each individual part within the family.

With an MES, manufacturers who use family molds can plan proactively with system alerts for tooling conflicts and color change information; run uneven batches of parts and scrap parts individually; and ultimately, eliminate unnecessary wait time and inefficiencies.

### Step 2: Focus on Proactive Process and Quality Control

A proactive quality control initiative is crucial to ensure you ship high quality parts to your customers. It's no longer enough to simply collect real-time production data of your manufacturing operations, you also need to analyze the process conditions of your production, in real-time, to prevent bad parts from being produced and shipped to customers.

Make sure the MES you're evaluating includes comprehensive Statistical Process Control (SPC) features that help you analyze important process conditions, and provides alerts when process conditions are out of tolerance. This way you'll have full and immediate traceability back to the root cause of your quality issue.

SPC reduces bad parts produced and improves quality by collecting data from samples at various points within your process. Variations in the process that may affect the quality of the end product can be detected and corrected, thus reducing waste as well as the likelihood that problems will be passed on to the customer. It has an emphasis on early detection and prevention of problems.

### Step 3: Rely on Real-Time Information

Your system should provide accurate 24/7 real-time manufacturing information of all your plant operations. By gaining access to this information, you will be able to reduce scrap, waste and machine downtime, improve your cycle times, Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE), plant productivity and automatic part qualification. A proper MES system will enable you to become proactive, and help anticipate and

## Manufacturing Execution System Checklist:

- Access to real-time and historical data of your manufacturing performance
- Ability to differentiate good parts from bad, on the fly, and reject parts to prevent bad parts from being shipped to the customer
- Historical data that helps pro-actively plan machine maintenance and other tasks that disrupt production
- Real-time production monitoring with key Statistical Process Control (SPC) functionality and analysis of process conditions
- Ability to collect product quality compliance data to perform root cause analysis of quality problems.

solve manufacturing problems before they occur. Identifying resource inefficiencies lets you do more with your existing resources and find new capacity.

### Step 4: Eliminate Manual Processes

Collecting production data manually is time-consuming and error prone. With no access to real-time data, you might produce bad parts for some time before you realize it. Halting production to find the bad parts and the root cause can result in significant costs.

## Conclusion

If you're ready to be proactive in your manufacturing operations; anticipate and solve manufacturing problems before they occur; identify resource inefficiencies, and do more with your existing resources and find new capacity, then a Manufacturing Execution System may be just what you need..

## About Epicor

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