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Use of Lean Manufacturing Tools by Mexican Firms

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Abstract: Lean manufacturing is the “lean” philosophy of elimination – reduction of waste within the supply chain. Its systematic application provides significant improvements to any process. This philosophy has been widely accepted and has been adopted by many firms worldwide. In Mexico, it has also boomed, allowing major productivity improvement within organizations. However, not all the tools involved this lean philosophy has been used; which may stop many firms from getting the expected benefits. In this descriptive study, the main aim is to determine which “lean” tools are most used by Mexican firms. In order to achieve this, a survey to employees from 156 Mexican firms was carried out in Monterrey, Mexico (also known as the industrial capital of Mexico) and the results show that Mexican firms primarily use the 5s, standardized work and Value Stream Mapping.

Keywords: Lean Manufacturing, Mexican Firms, Value Stream Mapping, Standardized Work, 5S