

Proceedings of the 1st Annual World Conference
of the Society for Industrial and Systems Engineering,
Washington, D.C, USA
September 16-18, 2012

Integrating Safety and Ergonomics into a Multi-Facility Lean Process

Richard Wyatt¹ and Jonathan J. Dawe²

¹Senior Consultant
Aon Risk Solutions
117 Ovella Ave.
Huntsville, Alabama 35811
+1.256.851.0811

²Director of Safety, Health, and Workers Compensation
Simmons Bedding Company
One Concourse Parkway, Suite 800
Atlanta, GA 30328
770-392-6765

Corresponding author's email: Richard.Wyatt@aon.com and jdawe@simmons.com

Abstract: Lean strategies are often employed to remove waste from a process. Companies employ various strategies to improve their processes and remove waste from the value stream. Within a Lean initiative, Safety and Ergonomics are often relegated to another department while engineers focus on removing waste from the process and tackle issues such as process improvement and material handling. Safety and ergonomics, due to the uncertainty of the variables that define a measurable cost, can be pushed aside in favor of more easily attainable goals. This paper describes the efforts to define, measure, analyze, implement and control risks and proactively implement safety and ergonomic strategies within the lean effort. It is hoped that these efforts can lead to a zero-accident culture within the mattress-manufacturing industry.