

## No Slacking off on Bottling Line 1 @ *Coopers*

It has been over 9 years since the first Area Based Team on Bottling Line 1 at **Coopers Brewery** completed an improvement cycle of Work Area Management. Known as “The Slackers”, the team successfully created an effective and productive Work Area environment, but over time there have been a lot of equipment, product and personnel changes to the line.

The Leadership Team at the Regency Park SA site thought that it would be a great opportunity to give the current Bottling Line 1 Operators the ownership of refreshing the Work Area to match the new standard set by the new and improved Bottling Line 2.

They set the team a mandate to:

- Clear-up and clean-up Bottling Line 1 and create ‘a place for everything and have everything in its place’ by working through the 10 parts of Work Area Management (WAM);
- Create or enhance standards and procedures for the work area and work processes to ensure that WAM improvements are sustained;
- Ensure appropriate Visual Controls are created or enhanced to communicate work area standards and to make any deviation from standard easy for all to see;
- Achieve a WAM Assessment Rating of at least 80%; and
- Complete within 12 weeks.

The team started by dividing up the line into Focus Areas and then allocating a focus area to each team member. This ensured that every operator was involved in all 10 parts of the WAM process, and at each meeting the operators would provide an update on their focus area’s progress. The decisions however, were made as a team on the requirements, improvements, visual controls, standards and procedures of each of the Focus Areas.

As with all WAM teams, the first activity was to conduct an initial Clear-Up of the entire line. A quarantine area was established to move all unwanted tagged items to one location to allow everyone on site the opportunity to review all the items for two weeks before they would be disposed of.

Next the team focused on what requirements were needed for Line 1. This included cleaning equipment, tools and the storage of them, workstations / benches, storage of raw materials, changeover parts, location of hot / cold water hoses, air lines, foaming reels and so on. Once the location of items was agreed on, Visual Controls such as line markings and shadow boards were established as seen in Figure 1 below.

**Figure 1: New Cleaning tools Shadow Board**



In total, **over 40 improvements were identified** for Line 1, involving each and every Focus Area.

One of the improvements made was the introduction of a new layout for the Innoket Labeller work area. The new layout was to allow access for a walker stacker so labels and glue could

be brought directly into the area without having to double handle items. Other improvements included the relocation of the MES terminal, the design of a new workbench as shown in Figure 2, and the relocation of the wash basin and plumbing.

**Figure 2: New Topmatic Work Bench**



The majority of the 40 improvements have been implemented, but there are still some improvements outstanding such as the line marking and the hydraulic turntable / platform for the Cluster Packer which is currently in progress.

Once the line marking is complete, this will allow the team to develop procedures and check sheets to ensure the new standards are maintained. We at CTPM would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the team on an excellent result and for all their hard work. We look forward to seeing the application of the remaining improvements in the Work Area.

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