11-30-2018

Process Improvement for Material Breakdown

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Recommended Citation
Brousseau, Steven; Klug, Matthew; Ganesa Moorthy, Kirshanthi; and Patten, Michael, "Process Improvement for Material Breakdown" (2018). TSM 415 Technology Capstone Posters. 27.
https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/tsm415/27

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Process Improvement for Material Breakdown
Client: Cardinal Glass, Greenfield, Iowa

Problem Statement
Cell workers at Cardinal Glass are spending too much time and labor manually breaking down larger materials into smaller and more usable parts.

Objective(s)
Come up with a faster, more efficient way of breaking down foam blocks and sponge material into smaller sizes. With a more efficient process in place, Cardinal Glass could ultimately achieve a better production rate. If we are able to create an improved process for Cardinal Glass they will be able to allocate their workers to primary tasks and not secondary tasks.

Constraints
- Budget
- Timeline
- Materials
- Requirements - Must drastically reduce process time
- Criteria must be met

Scope
- Designing new cutting equipment that would save time
- Creating alternatives for each process
- Testing the alternatives to ensure maximum efficiency

Design Prototype
- Original process takes around eight hours to break down a single foam block.
- The material that is being broke down is crucial to the completion of primary tasks.

Methods
- Design - We utilized Inventor and Solidworks to draft a design for our cutter
- Cost estimation - We used Grainger to estimate the cost of the material/products being used
- Site visit - We toured the facility to get a better picture of the processes

Proposed Solutions
- Foam Bun Cutting Jig
- Sponge Material Cutting Jig

Major Outcomes
- Prioritized a list of major tasks and deliverables including Final Report
- Measures of success (percent improvement, cost saved/year, cost per unit saved, etc.)

Benefit to Client
- Saves time and money for hourly employees
- Frees up salary workers to focus on primary duties

Acknowledgements: Authors are grateful to Jacob Thoren for the opportunity to work on this project. Project was co-funded by the differential tuition.