

FIVE S YOUR SCAFFOLDING YARD

LEAN thinking aims to improve productivity and reduce waste from the way we work. When used well it has the added benefit of preventing strains and sprains to our workers as it eliminates many of the risks.

The 5 S exercise is ideal for a scaffolding yard and can be repeated on a regular basis for continuous improvement. It was developed originally by Toyota. It involves a focus on five things beginning with S:

SORT (Seiri) Take out what is not needed and used often

SET IN ORDER (Seiton) Organise what is needed by neatly arranging and identifying things for ease of use

SHINE (Seiso) Clean the area with a clean-up campaign

STANDARDISE (Seiketsu) Schedule regular cleaning and maintenance using SORT, SET-IN ORDER and SHINE

SUSTAIN (Shitsuke) Make 5s a way of life by forming a habit of following the first 4s on a regular basis



WHAT TO DO:

5s can be completed over a series of toolbox talks (eg Talk one -SORT, Talk two-SET IN ORDER) or during one session (possibly followed by a BBQ!)The time it will take will depend on the size of your yard or what area you want to focus on. It is an ideal activity for the whole team, your yard crew or health and safety team.

SORT - things to consider:

- Are parts stored in pre-measured standard amounts (eg decks 30 per stillage) to make loading easier?
- Are parts in their separate spaces and easy to identify and access?
- Are often used parts easier to access?
- Is broken gear separated and labelled (use a red sticker)?
- Is there a logical order to loading (eg heavy or larger parts first)?

SET IN ORDER - things to consider:

- Does the yard and loading process have good logical flow?
- Are forklifts and workers separated?
- Are things arranged so forklifts do most of the loading/unloading?
- Are things stored up-right , up off the ground or below shoulder height?
- Are parts easy to identify?

SHINE - things to consider:

- Are parts cleaned before storing?
- Is there smooth and clear access ways?
- Is gear checked for defects?
- Are moving parts regularly lubricated?

STANDARDIZE - Schedule regular cleaning and maintenance using SORT, SET-IN ORDER and SHINE

SUSTAIN - Make 5s a way of life by forming a habit of following the first 4s on a regular basis

