Offline Inspection

 Ubisense Smart Factory enabled a leading commercial truck company to proactively avoid overruns and bottlenecks in its busy inspection department.

The Challenge

To avoid process overruns in end-of-line inspection bays, so that workers don’t fall behind and delay production flow.

A major commercial truck manufacturer uses a moving assembly line to build vehicles, typically around 200 per day with an 8-minute takt time. As trucks come off the line they move into an inspection bay, where the total time available for all inspection processes is also approximately 8-minutes.

The truck company had limited visibility of activities in the inspection bays and its workers had no way to tell whether they were behind with their work - they would easily lose track of time, and fall behind. This was causing frequent delays and line stoppages, when the inspection cell was not cleared by the time next truck came off the assembly line.

- Process overruns were occurring in Offline inspection cells
- Associated line stoppages resulted in waste and delays Upstream
- Downstream delays were caused by trucks blocking space in the factory
- Overall production flow was negatively impacted by the bottleneck at inspection

The Smart Factory Solution

Smart Factory delivered Offline workflow prioritization and real-time alerting that enabled inspection cell operators to proactively avoid overruns.

The Smart Factory system keeps track of inspection activities in real-time, and is sensitive to process deviations. As soon as a truck enters the inspection cell Smart Factory initiates a ‘count down’ with a visual and audio alert for the worker when the available takt time is starting to expire. If inspection is still behind when the work time is almost up, Smart Factory automatically alerts a supervisor to assist.

By keeping personnel instantly informed, Smart Factory enabled the truck manufacturer to avoid line stoppages and overruns caused by Offline inspection.

The Results

1. The truck manufacturer can proactively avoid bottlenecks and maintain end-to-end production flow
2. Smart Factory eliminated the waste associated with overruns in Offline inspection bays
3. The truck plant significantly increased productivity and throughput

www.ubisense.net/en/products/smart-factory

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