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Organizational Experience Report at Butzke Industry

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Abstract

This report refers to cleaner production (CP) interventions on the industry Butzke that produces certified wood furniture. The company needed to decrease their products cost and make the process more sustainable. During CP intervention, another problem came up: due to a reduction on the American dollar (USD) per Brazilian Reals (BRZ) ratio, the sales had reduced considerably on the furnishing market, and that was the key point to do more efficient upgrades that could reduce costs at the same time raising sales. The problems identified focused in two fronts: design and production. The main enhancements proceeded on the production line were layout remolding and residual exhaustion. Along were studied the destination of all residues produced by the company like, sandpapers, tows, sawdust and firewood. After the intervention 100% of these residues started to be sold generating extra profits. Regarding the design, new product lines were designed to utilize the bigger wood retails and the old models gone through a re-design process that, besides making them more contemporaneous, contributed to the best usage of the raw material with smaller wood gauges and the use of retails on your drawings. These changes resulted in a 76% reduction on the retails generated on the furniture production and a decrease in 93% of the retails quantity stored. Enhancement procedures on the production have decreased the costs and aggregate value to the products, making it more competitive and sustainable. Aiming to inform and guarantee higher efficiency of the process, the company started to invest on environmental education for their workers. It's important to say that all interventions were operationally simple and had a relatively low cost. The intervention may serve as reference to this important productive sector in Brazil encompassing currently about 14,400 companies that generates about 227,600 direct jobs. This report relates an example of how the enhancements can be simple and low-cost but efficient, resulting in profits to the company and benefits to the community and environment.

Key-words: design, sustainability, cleaner production.
