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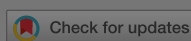
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Original Articles

Improving the logistics of a constant order-cycle *kanban* system

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Abstract

Kanban systems are simple, effective means of improving production that are widely applied in practice. Based on the logistic process involved, kanban systems can be divided into constant order-quantity and constant order-cycle systems. The former has received much research attention, but the latter, also known as a milk run, has been relatively neglected. Furthermore, the use of kanban systems in production systems with relatively high variability in demand and lead times is limited. This paper presents a new kanban system for production systems with high variability in demand and lead times, which is based on the use of a constant order-cycle system.

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eliminated without any negative impact on replenishment. This led to financial savings through the elimination of two operators. The logistic process appears to have a significant impact on kanban performance. Consequently, kanban implementations should not only focus on the kanban system itself but also on the other processes involved. Future research should therefore explore how resources can best be allocated between the different aspects required for a successful kanban implementation.

Keywords: Kanban systems milk run case study

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