

<div> <div> Module 8 Section C: Continuous Improvement </div> <div> <div>Term</div> <div>Acceptable quality level (AQL)</div> </div> <div> APICS CPIM Learning System © 2025 </div> </div>	<div> <p>When a continuing series of lots is considered, a quality level that, for the purposes of sampling inspection, is the limit of a satisfactory process average.</p> </div>
<div> <div> Module 8 Section C: Continuous Improvement </div> <div> <div>Term</div> <div>Acceptance sampling</div> </div> <div> APICS CPIM Learning System © 2025 </div> </div>	<div> <p>1) The process of sampling a portion of goods for inspection rather than examining the entire lot. The entire lot may be accepted or rejected based on the sample even though the specific units in the lot are better or worse than the sample. There are two types: attributes sampling and variables sampling. In attributes sampling, the presence or absence of a characteristic is noted in each of the units inspected. In variables sampling, the numerical magnitude of a characteristic is measured and recorded for each inspected unit; this type of sampling involves reference to a continuous scale of some kind. 2) A method of measuring random samples of lots or batches of products against predetermined standards.</p> </div>
<div> <div> Module 8 Section C: Continuous Improvement </div> <div> <div>Term</div> <div>Baseline measures</div> </div> <div> APICS CPIM Learning System © 2025 </div> </div>	<div> <p>A set of measurements (or metrics) that seeks to establish the current or starting level of performance of a process, function, product, firm, or other entity. [These] are usually established before implementing improvement activities and programs.</p> </div>
<div> <div> Module 8 Section C: Continuous Improvement </div> <div> <div>Term</div> <div>Benchmark measures</div> </div> <div> APICS CPIM Learning System © 2025 </div> </div>	<div> <p>A set of measurements or metrics that is used to establish goals for improvements in processes, functions, products, and so on. Often derived from other firms that display best-in-class achievement.</p> </div>

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term Benchmarking

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

Comparing products, processes, and services to those of another organization thought to have superior performance. The target may or may not be a competitor or even in the same industry.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term Brainstorming

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A technique that teams use to generate ideas about a particular subject. Each person on the team is asked to think creatively and write down as many ideas as possible. The ideas are not discussed or reviewed until after the session.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term Co-location

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

Placing project team members in physical proximity to facilitate communication and working relationships.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term Computer-aided design (CAD)

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

The use of computers in interactive engineering drawing and storage of designs. Programs complete the layout, geometric transformations, projections, rotations, magnifications, and interval (cross-section) views of a part and its relationship with other parts.

Module 8*Section C: Continuous Improvement***Term**

Computer-aided manufacturing (CAM)

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

The use of computers to program, direct, and control production equipment in the fabrication of manufactured items.

Module 8*Section C: Continuous Improvement***Term**

Computer-integrated manufacturing (CIM)

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

The integration of the total manufacturing organization through the use of computer systems and managerial philosophies that improve the organization's effectiveness; the application of a computer to bridge various computerized systems and connect them into a coherent, integrated whole. For example, budgets, CAD/CAM, process controls, group technology systems, MRP II, and financial reporting systems are linked and interfaced.

Module 8*Section C: Continuous Improvement***Term**

Conformance

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

An affirmative indication or judgment that a product or service has met the requirements of a relevant specification, contract, or regulation.

Module 8*Section C: Continuous Improvement***Term**

Continuous improvement (CI)

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

The act of making incremental, regular improvements and upgrades to a process or product in the search for excellence.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Continuous process improvement (CPI)

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A never-ending effort to expose and eliminate root causes of problems; small-step improvement as opposed to big-step improvement. Syn.: continuous improvement. See: kaizen.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Control chart

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A graphic comparison of process performance data with predetermined computed control limits. The process performance data usually consists of groups of measurements selected in the regular sequence of production that preserve the order. The primary use of [these] is to detect assignable causes of variation in the process as opposed to random variations. [This] is one of the seven tools of quality. Syn.: process control chart.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Control limit

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A statistically determined line on a control chart [...]. If a value occurs outside this [upper or lower] limit, the process is deemed to be out of control.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, Control (DMAIC) process

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A six sigma improvement process composed of five stages: (1) Determine the nature of the problem. (2) Measure existing performance and commence recording data and facts that offer information about the underlying causes of the problem. (3) Study the information to determine the root causes of the problem. (4) Improve the process by effecting solutions to the problem. (5) Monitor the process until the solutions become ingrained.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Design of experiments (DOE)

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

1) A process for structuring statistically valid studies in any science. 2) A quality management technique used to evaluate the effect of carefully planned and controlled changes to input process variables on the output variable. The objective is to improve production processes.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Employee empowerment

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

The practice of giving non-managerial employees the responsibility and the power to make decisions regarding their jobs or tasks. It is associated with the practice of transfer of managerial responsibility to the employee. Allows the employee to take on responsibility for tasks normally associated with staff specialists. Examples include allowing the employee to make scheduling, quality, process design, or purchasing decisions.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Employee involvement (EI)

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

The concept of using the experience, creative energy, and intelligence of all employees by treating them with respect, keeping them informed, and including them and their ideas in decision-making processes appropriate to their areas of expertise. Focuses on quality and productivity improvements.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Fault tree analysis

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A logical approach to identify the probabilities and frequencies of events in a system that are most critical to uninterrupted and safe operation. This analysis may include failure mode effects analysis (determining the result of component failure interactions toward system safety) and techniques for human error prediction.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term Five S's

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

Five terms beginning with “S” used to create a workplace suitable for lean production: sort, simplify, scrub, standardize, and sustain. Sort means to separate needed items from unneeded ones and remove the latter. Simplify means to neatly arrange items for use. Scrub means to clean up the work area. Standardize means to sort, simplify, and scrub daily. Sustain means to always follow the first four Ss. Sometimes referred to by the Japanese equivalents: seiri, seiton, seiso, seiketsu, and shitsuke.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term Flexible automation

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

Automation that provides short setup times and the ability to switch quickly from one product to another.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term Gemba

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

The place where humans create value or the real workplace. Also a philosophy: “Go to the actual place; see the actual work.”

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term Genchi genbutsu

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A Japanese phrase meaning to visit the shop floor to observe what is occurring.

Module 8
Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term
Go/no-go

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

The state of a unit or product. Two parameters are possible: [one conforms to specification and the other does not conform to specification].

Module 8
Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term
House of quality (HOQ)

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A structured process that relates customer-defined attributes to the product's technical features needed to support and generate these attributes. This technique achieves this mapping by means of a six-step process: (1) identification of customer attributes; (2) identification of supporting technical features; (3) correlation of the customer attributes with the supporting technical features; (4) assignment of priorities to the customer requirements and technical features; (5) evaluation of competitive stances and competitive products; and (6) identification of those technical features to be used (deployed) in the final design of the product. [This] is part of the quality function deployment (QFD) process and forces designers to consider customer needs and the degree to which the proposed designs satisfy these needs. See: customer-defined attributes, quality function deployment.

Module 8
Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term
Hypothesis testing

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

Use of statistical models to test conclusions about a population or universe based on sample information.

Module 8
Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term
Jidoka

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

The Japanese term for the practice of stopping the production line when a defect occurs.

Module 8
Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term
Job analysis

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A process of gathering (by observation, interview, or recording systems) significant task-oriented activities and requirements about work required of employees.

Module 8
Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term
Just in time (JIT)

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A philosophy of manufacturing based on planned elimination of all waste and on continuous improvement of productivity. It encompasses the successful execution of all manufacturing activities required to produce a final product, from design engineering to delivery, and includes all stages of conversion from raw material onward. The primary elements of [this] are to have only the required inventory when needed; to improve quality to zero defects; to reduce lead times by reducing setup times, queue lengths, and lot sizes; to incrementally revise the operations themselves; and to accomplish these activities at minimum cost. In the broad sense, it applies to all forms of manufacturing—job shop, process, and repetitive—and to many service industries as well. Syn.: short-cycle manufacturing, stockless production, zero inventories.

Module 8
Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term
Kaizen

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

The Japanese term for improvement; refers to continuing improvement involving everyone—managers and workers. In manufacturing, [this] relates to finding and eliminating waste in machinery, labor, or production methods. See: continuous process improvement.

Module 8
Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term
Kaizen blitz

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A rapid improvement of a limited process area; for example, a production cell. Part of the improvement team consists of workers in that area. The objectives are to use innovative thinking to eliminate non-value-added work and to immediately implement the changes within a week or less. Ownership of the improvement by the area work team and the development of the team's problem-solving skills are additional benefits. See: kaizen event.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term
Kaizen event

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A time-boxed set of activities carried out by the cell team during the week of cell implementation. [It] is an implementation arm of a lean manufacturing program. See: kaizen blitz.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term
Kit

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

1) The components of a parent item that have been pulled from stock and readied for movement to a production area. 2) A group of repair parts to be shipped with an order. Syn.: kitted material, staged material.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term
Knowledge management

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

An integrated approach used by organizations to capture, share, develop, and use organizational knowledge. This information is used to more effectively produce product, interface with customers, and navigate through competitive markets.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term
Lean six sigma

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A methodology that combines the improvement concepts of lean and six sigma. It uses the seven wastes of lean and the define, measure, analyze, improve, control (DMAIC) process from six sigma and awards recognition of competence through judo-style belts.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Learning organization

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

- 1) A group of people who have woven a continuous, enhanced capacity to learn into the corporate culture.
- 2) An organization in which learning processes are analyzed, monitored, developed, and aligned with competitive goals.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Lower control limit (LCL)

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

Control limit for points below the central line in a control chart.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Manufacturing execution systems (MES)

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

Programs and systems that participate in shop floor control, including programmed logic controllers and process control computers for direct and supervisory control of manufacturing equipment, process information systems that gather historical performance information and then generate reports, graphical displays, and alarms that inform operations personnel what is going on in the plant currently and what occurred during a very short history into the past. Quality control information is also gathered, and a laboratory information management system may be part of this configuration to tie process conditions to the quality data that is generated. Cause-and-effect relationships can thereby be determined. The quality data at times affects the control parameters that are used to meet product specifications either dynamically or offline.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Model

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A representation of a process or system that attempts to relate the most important variables in the system in such a way that analysis of the model leads to insights into the system. Frequently, the model is used to anticipate the result of a particular strategy in the real system.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Nominal group technique

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A technique, similar to brainstorming, used by teams to generate ideas about a particular subject. Team members are asked to silently come up with as many ideas as possible and write them down. Each member is then asked to share one idea, which is recorded. After all the ideas are recorded, they are discussed and prioritized by the group.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Operator flexibility

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

Training machine workers to perform tasks outside their immediate jobs and in problem-solving techniques to improve process flexibility. This is a necessary process in developing a fully cross-trained workforce.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Overall equipment effectiveness (OEE)

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

Measuring the effectiveness of all of the equipment of a company based on usage, performance, and production quality.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Perceived quality

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

One of the eight dimensions of quality that refers to a subjective assessment of a product's quality based on criteria defined by the observer.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Performance appraisal

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

Supervisory or peer analysis of work performance. May be made in connection with wage and salary review, promotion, transfer, or employee training.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Performance measure

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

In a performance measurement system, the actual value measured for the criterion.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Poka-yoke

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

Mistake-proofing techniques designed in a way to prevent an error from resulting in a product defect. For example, in an assembly operation, if each correct part is not used, a sensing device detects that a part was unused and shuts down the operation.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Problem-solving storyboard

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A technique based on the plan/do/check/action problem-solving process. The steps being taken and the progress toward the resolution of a problem are continuously planned and updated.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Process capability

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

The ability of the process to produce parts that conform to (engineering) specifications. [It] relates to the inherent variability of a process that is in a state of statistical control. See: Cp, Cpk, process capability analysis.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Process capability index

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

The value of the tolerance specified for the characteristic divided by the process capability. There are several types, including the widely used Cpk and Cp.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Process control

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

1) The function of maintaining a process within a given range of capability by feedback, correction, and so forth. 2) The monitoring of instrumentation attached to equipment (valves, meters, mixers, liquid, temperature, time, etc.) from a control room to ensure that a high-quality product is being produced to specification.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Prototyping

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

1) A specialized product design and development process for developing a working model of a product. 2) A specialized system development process for performing a determination where user needs are extracted, presented, and developed by building a working model of the system. Generally, these tools make it possible to create all files and processing programs needed for the evaluation of a business application in a matter of days or hours.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term QS 9000

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A variation of ISO 9000 certification with additional requirements tailored for the automobile industry, including suppliers. [It] is being superseded by ISO/TS 16949, which incorporates many European standards. See: ISO 9000, ISO/TS 16949.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term Quality function deployment (QFD)

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A methodology designed to ensure that all the major requirements of the customer are identified and subsequently met or exceeded through the resulting product design process and the design and operation of the supporting production management system.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term Quick changeover

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

The ability to shorten machine setups between different machine operation requirements to increase process flexibility. Highest concentration is on first reducing external setup time, then on internal setup issues. This reduces economic order quantity, queue and manufacturing lead times, and work-in-process inventory; it improves quality, process, and material flows.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term Random sample

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A selection of observations taken from all the observations of a phenomenon in such a way that each chosen observation has the same possibility of selection.

Module 8*Section C: Continuous Improvement***Term**

Rework order

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A manufacturing order to rework and salvage defective parts or products. Syn.: repair order, spoiled work order.

Module 8*Section C: Continuous Improvement***Term**

Root cause analysis

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

Analytical methods to determine the core problem(s) of an organization, process, product, market, and so forth.

Module 8*Section C: Continuous Improvement***Term**

Simulation

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

1) The technique of using representative or artificial data to reproduce in a model various conditions that are likely to occur in the actual performance of a system. Frequently used to test the behavior of a system under different operating policies. 2) Within MRP II, using the operational data to perform what-if evaluations of alternative plans to answer the question, "Can we do it?" If yes, the simulation can then be run in the financial mode to help answer the question, "Do we really want to?" See: what-if analysis.

Module 8*Section C: Continuous Improvement***Term**

Single-minute exchange of die (SMED)

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

The concept of setup times of less than 10 minutes, developed by Shigeo Shingo in 1970 at Toyota. See: single-digit setup.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term Six sigma

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A methodology that furnishes tools for the improvement of business processes. The intent is to decrease process variation and improve product quality.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term Six sigma quality

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A set of concepts and practices that focuses on reducing variability in processes and reducing deficiencies in the product. Important elements are (1) producing only 3.4 defects for every 1 million opportunities or operations and (2) process improvement initiatives striving for six sigma-level performance.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term Spread

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

Variability of an action. Often measured by the range or standard deviation of a particular dimension.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term Statistical process control (SPC)

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

The application of statistical techniques to monitor and adjust an operation. Often used interchangeably with statistical quality control, although statistical quality control [also includes acceptance sampling.]

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Statistical quality control (SQC)

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

The application of statistical techniques to control quality. Includes acceptance sampling as well as statistical process control, but is often used interchangeably with statistical process control.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Supermarket approach

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A way of managing inventory and improving picking by making all parts easy to take off of a shelf, much like the shelves of a supermarket. Inventory is then restocked in such a way that employees always have easy access.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Supplier scheduling

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A purchasing approach that provides suppliers with schedules rather than with individual hard-copy purchase orders. Normally, [this type of] system will include a business agreement (contract) for each supplier, a weekly (or more frequent) schedule for each supplier extending for some time into the future, and individuals called supplier schedulers. Also required is a formal priority planning system that works well, because it is essential in this arrangement to provide the supplier with valid due dates. Syn.: vendor scheduling.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Supplier-input-process-output-customer
(SIPOC) diagram

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

Acronym for “supplier, input, process, output, customer” (pronounced “syeh-pahk”).

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Taguchi methodology

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A concept of off-line quality control methods conducted at the product and process design stages in the product development cycle. This concept, expressed by Genichi Taguchi, encompasses three phases of product design: system design, parameter design, and tolerance design. The goal is to reduce quality loss by reducing the variability of the product's characteristics during the parameter phase of product development. Syn.: Taguchi methods.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Upper control limit (UCL)

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

Control limit for points above the central line in a control chart.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Value stream

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

The processes of creating, producing, and delivering a good or service to the market. For a good, [this] encompasses the raw material supplier, the manufacture and assembly of the good, and the distribution network. For a service, [this] consists of suppliers, support personnel and technology, the service "producer," and the distribution channel. May be controlled by a single business or a network of several businesses.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term

Value stream mapping

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A lean production tool to visually understand the flow of materials from supplier to customer that includes the current process and flow as well as the value-added and non-value-added time of all the process steps. It is used to help reduce waste, decrease flow time, and make the process flow more efficient and effective.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term Variation

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A change in data, a characteristic, or a function that is caused by one of four factors: special causes, common causes, tampering, or structural variation.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term Virtual cell

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

A logical rather than physical grouping of manufacturing resources. Resources [within this] can be dispersed throughout a facility. Product mix changes may change the layout of [this]. This technique is used when it is not practical to move the equipment.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term Voice of the customer (VOC)

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

Actual customer descriptions in words for the functions and features customers desire for goods and services.

Module 8

Section C: Continuous Improvement

Term Workplace organization

APICS CPIM Learning System

© 2025

The arrangement of tools, equipment, materials, and supplies according to their frequency of use. Those items that are never used are removed from the workplace, and those items that are used frequently are located for fast, easy access and replacement. This concept extends the idea of “a place for everything and everything in its place.”