



From the
Desk of
Noel Ward
Editor-in-Chief

The idea behind lean manufacturing is to reduce wasted time, increase efficiency and implement a bottom-up approach to generate change. ID Images, a Cleveland, Ohio-area label converter, has learned the language of lean and successfully implemented practices that have streamlined production in a busy operation. The first step, says President Brian Gale, is to eliminate "muda," a Japanese word for waste. Doing so, says Gale, helps the company complete its core task. "We get paid to make labels," he states. "So how can we do it better?"

It's well known that packaging with strong design elements helps sell products at the retail level. But, where do those designs come from? How do they go from an idea to a finished product off the press? And what are the best ways to foster collaboration? We heard from designers and packaging production pros on how an idea becomes a tangible product. One key? Constant communication.

While the use of digital printing is growing rapidly, few printers and converters are about to swap out their entire pressroom for inkjet and toner boxes. Instead, they look for ways to do a balancing act. That act is not only about which machine to use



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Best Practices: A Question of Balance

Many package printers are implementing digital and conventional printing systems. Deciding which press to use is not as simple as it might seem.

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Data Points: Are You Ready for GHS?

Lest you think GHS doesn't apply to you, the new rules include labels on paint, cleaners, lubricants and a host of household chemicals.

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Eliminating Muda

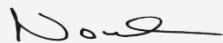
When you reduce the time a process requires by two minutes, and you do that 10 times a day on 10 presses, it adds up to a big number very quickly. And it starts with reducing muda.

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when, but about how the different technologies can deliver increased efficiency by optimizing operations.

Come June, the Globally Harmonized System of Classification for hazardous chemical labeling will change the labeling requirements at more than a few converters. In case you don't think this applies to you, consider that if you handle labels or packaging for paints, solvents, or household cleaning products, then GHS will almost certainly impact some of the work in your shop. Amy Machado, an analyst for IDC's Labeling and Packaging and Production and Large Format programs, explains how these changes will affect label printing for the chemical industry.

Kind regards,



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From Concept to Creation

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