



Enhancing Warehouse Associate Performance at APL Logistics

1 Introduction

With over four decades of expertise in providing tailored logistics solutions for various industries, APL Logistics is a trusted partner for large-scale enterprises worldwide. Specializing in end-to-end logistics solutions for markets such as automotive, retail, industrial, and CPG, APL Logistics aims to be a premier provider of global supply-chain services, fostering sustainable trade and commerce in key regions. Committed to continuous improvement, APL Logistics invests in its people, facilities, and technology, striving to uphold a culture of innovation, customer focus, and operational excellence.

2 The Challenge

When APL Logistics identified a discrepancy between the labor standards set in their Minooka, IL distribution center and the actual performance observed on the floor, they decided it was time to audit their standards. They partnered with Alpine Supply Chain Solutions to gauge the accuracy of their standards and develop a plan for optimizing efficiency and future performance.

3 The Solution

Alpine conducted a strategic review of APL's labor standards, meticulously analyzing actual performance against set goals and scrutinizing each job function in comparison to individual performance metrics. Time studies were conducted to validate existing standards against the actual work being performed on the floor. Alpine evaluated nine job codes for accuracy and fairness, considering factors such as work content, personal fatigue, delays, and the interface between the WMS/LMS systems.

4 Results

Following the comprehensive review and analysis, Alpine generated a detailed report outlining their findings and recommendations. Collaborating closely with APL Logistics' management team, Alpine facilitated observations and made suggestions for adjustments that would ensure jobs were being performed according to best practices. New standards for nine job codes were set based on the updated practices and time studies conducted around them.

5 Conclusion

The partnership between APL Logistics and Alpine underscores the importance of regularly reviewing and updating labor standards in warehouse facilities. As business profiles evolve and processes change, it is essential to ensure that standards accurately reflect best practices and align with the profile of work being performed. By maintaining up-to-date standards, organizations can optimize accountability, recognition programs, and overall warehouse performance. This initiative exemplifies the commitment of APL Logistics to continuous improvement and operational excellence in the ever-evolving landscape of logistics and supply chain management.

