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Dear Client,

*All of us at Exceeda Consulting extend our best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and prosperous 2013!*



### Kaizen-Focused and Fast!

Kaizen (Kai=change, Zen=good) loosely translated means "**Change for the Better**". Kaizen, a building block of Lean thinking, is an effective way for organizations to reduce waste, adopt a culture of continuous improvement and achieve high performance results.



The philosophy implies that small, incremental changes sustained over a long period result in significant improvements. This strategy includes workers from multiple functions and levels in the organization working together to improve a process and/or address a specific problem. This type of improvement methodology requires an organization to foster a culture where employees are empowered to identify and solve problems.

### The Two Core Concepts of Kaizen

1. **Attack Root Causes** - Problems will be forever eliminated once you eliminate the root-cause
2. **Improvement + Standardization** - Improvements will remain in place forever once you standardize them

### Phases of a Kaizen Event

Fourth Quarter 2012



### True North

Protecting jobs in America by helping companies stay competitive!

### Today's Quote

"Watch the little things; a small leak will sink a great ship"

~Benjamin Franklin

FREE



Visit us on-line for a free lean assessment!

Funding Links

[Massachusetts Workforce Training](#)

[RI Workforce Training Board](#)

## 1. Planning and Preparation:

- Identify a target area or problem for a rapid improvement event
- Plan 2 -5 days for the event
- Select 5-8 cross functional team members to participate in the event
- Clearly define the scope of the event/project charter

## 2. Execution:

- Develop a clear understanding of the "current state" to ensure all team members know problem that is being solved
- Use tools like 5-Why, Value Stream Mapping and brainstorming to identify waste in the process and develop "future state" process
- Design and test improvements
- Implement improvements

## 3. Follow-Up:

- Follow-Up to ensure that improvements are not just temporary but are sustained
- Use key performance measures to document improvement gains

[New England Trade Adjustment Assistance Center](#)

[NY Department of Labor and Workforce](#)

[CT Department of Labor](#)



## **How We Can Help**

Do it better, make it better, improve it even if it isn't broken, because if you don't ...you can't compete with those who do. Let us show you how!

Exceeda can bring our extensive experience and industry knowledge to help your organization improve your processes and eliminate waste. Make waste elimination your business resolution for 2013!

### **Contact Us Today!**

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