

Efrat's Nuggets

By: Eliyahu M. Goldratt and Efrat Tal

Efrat's nugget -6: Minimum batch progression

(MTO and MTA production)

There are times that a technical consideration at a certain work-center forces us to process a minimum batch which is bigger than the order (e.g. a mixer that requires a minimum of 20 liters). Then, of course, we have no choice but to work on more units than needed for the order. But that doesn't mean we have to carry those extra units onwards through all the processing chain (after passing the work center responsible for the technical consideration), as is too often done. There is no reason to overload/suffocate/flood the floor with unnecessary work, when there is no longer any technical need that necessitates it. The extra units should wait, as WIP, till another order requires processing them.

In cases where there is a concern whether there will be any other future order that will need those extra units, there is no need to proceed working on them anyway, since we will gain nothing but being stuck with redundant finished goods instead of WIP.

Note: This warning not to unnecessarily progress with minimum batch is much more important for V plants (or wherever there is a split after the work center which is responsible for the minimum batch).

