

Effective Supply Chain Management

A chain is only as strong as its weakest link!

In any organisation, the quality of the goods and services provided for the customer depends to a greater or lesser extent on the ability of the suppliers to meet the organisation's requirements. Effective supply chains are those that are managed to the extent that customers' needs and aspirations are known, understood and met, all the way along the chain, which may well consist of very many supplier/customer interfaces.



Managing The Supply Chain

Supply chains can be simple and involve only a small number of supplier/customer interfaces, but in many cases the chains can be very long and complex, including dozens of organisations involved in the processing and adding value to materials, products and services, with interfaces stretching across the globe. The management of these chains means not only controlling the movement of the products, materials and skills between each link to arrive at the right place and time, but the management and transfer of information and finance. It means sales, purchasing, production, logistic and finance functions in an organisation all coming together and working as one, and the same thing happening for each link in the chain!



A miracle scenario? Hard work yes, but impossible no! Good Supply Chain Management principles are in operation in many sectors, including for example aerospace and automotive where their required management system standards actually demand it.

Effective Supply Chain Management depends on:

- Good control of materials and products, information and finance up and down the length of the chain,
- The level of influence and cooperation between members of the chain,
- Efficient and effective interfaces between suppliers and customers,
- Efficient and effective interfaces within organisations in the chain (internal customer/supplier relationships).



So how do Mirams Waterhouse Ltd get involved in the improvement of a supply chain? Normally we are called on by a client to resolve issues related to a troublesome product, particular customer requirements, or a supplier that is delivering poor performance. Generally such issues do not have one isolated cause but highlight many deficiencies in the supply chain that need addressing; whatever the situation we will provide a cost effective solution involving appropriately located, experienced and qualified consultants and associates.

For a discussion about how we can improve the supply chains your organisation is involved in, please call us.

Mirams Waterhouse Ltd have considerable experience in the development and management of supply chains for our clients, in large and small organisations, in both manufacturing and service sectors.

We have particular expertise in working with international and intercontinental chains, especially between Europe and Asia where, in order to take advantage of cheaper manufacturing and materials, it is often necessary to overcome language, ethical, cultural and geographical barriers.

Our expertise includes:

- Sourcing suppliers of materials, products and subcontracted services in UK and overseas,
- Assessment of potential suppliers and second party quality audits,
- Development of operational systems and communications,
- Working with suppliers and customers to improve quality,
- Developing external and internal supplier/customer relationships,
- Supplier performance measurement and monitoring,
- Training in all aspects of supply chain management.

We do not just put forward theoretical solutions - we operate in a very much "hands-on" manner, working with the client organisation and their suppliers and customers to develop the systems necessary to make the chain effective and beneficial. On many projects we become directly involved with several tiers in the supply chain at one time, driving improvements at all levels that make for benefits all the way along the line.



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