



**RYOBI**



**Company:** Ryobi Aluminium Casting UK  
**Sector:** Manufacturing  
**Project:** Six Sigma

Productivity Improvement  
Learn how to maximise output  
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## RYOBI CAST OUT THEIR REJECTS THROUGH SIX SIGMA

Ryobi Aluminium Casting UK Ltd is one of the Centre for Competitiveness' local companies who has benefited from the implementation of Six Sigma. The objective was to provide the organisation with the tools and techniques required to enhance its performance, realise real benefits and save money.

Deploying Six Sigma in Ryobi delivered:

- *Improved manufacturing processes*
- *Significant reductions in reject rates*
- *Cost savings of over £53,000 within 6 months of the implementation of just one project*

## ABOUT RYOBI

Ryobi Aluminium Casting UK Ltd is a local organisation employing 250 people. Established by Ryobi Limited, Japan in 1990 to supply Transmission Cases to Ford Motor Company, Ryobi has since expanded and now supplies new customers such as Jaguar, General Motors, Isuzu Saab and Visteon.

Ryobi have a strong engineering element to their product range and specialises in automotive such as high pressure aluminium die cast power train components.

“Since implementing the Six Sigma programme in Ryobi we have formalised our approach to problem solving and given our workforce the interest and motivation to be involved in continuous improvement. It has also opened up areas which we had accepted could be a problem but never thoroughly investigated. Because of the success of the programme we have now selected other projects which we will target with Six Sigma.”

Robert Harron  
Operations Manager

## THE PROJECT

The company's need to emulate the world class standards operated by its diverse customer base led it to investigate Six Sigma.

The decision to initiate a project came after key personnel attended a CforC conference on Six Sigma where practitioners shared their experiences in frank and open presentations.

Ryobi began its Six Sigma project by first identifying a Champion for the project from Senior Management and a Project Manager, who was trained to the Greenbelt level. The project got underway with the Champion deciding to focus the project on improving the quality within one of their four manufacturing areas.

The first task was to review every product manufactured in the designated area and measure the number of defects coming out of it. This data was then analysed, identifying one project to focus on. The reject rate for this product was running higher than average.

A team was then established to enable input to be gained from a range of people and departments. The team's application of the Six Sigma methodology included identifying and addressing the root cause of the underlying reject problem.

Their next step involved ranking scores to uncover those problems that potentially could have the most negative impact on the overall process. And it was at this stage that several key inputs were identified, considered, and many improvement ideas were proposed.

## COST SAVINGS

With a target to strive towards, the team, within 6 months of implementing their first Six Sigma project, realised a 4% improvement over all parts manufactured, a £53,000 saving for the company!

The company has now implemented further Six Sigma projects to improve their manufacturing capabilities and accrue even more savings.

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