PLM Interest Group

PLM Standardisation Manual

Applying a well-directed Standardisation approach to your implementation is one of the cheapest and yet most effective ways of improving performance.

This is not a book, or theoretical treatise. It is a hands-on instruction manual with the methodology and supporting theory to 'productionise' your PLM.

Roger Tempest, PLMIG Co-Founder

0 Executive Summary

There is a difference between ‘Standards’ and ‘Standardisation’.

Standards are formal, regulated, documented specifications of what is expected to happen. They are difficult to define and apply for PLM.

Standardisation is a continual drive towards common, proven best practices; and is one of the cheapest and most effective ways of improving a mature PLM implementation.

In the 19th century, Joseph Whitworth began his career as an apprentice in a machine tool factory, and went on to leave a legacy of standard measures and gauges that transformed the manufacturing industry of his time. Move forward 150 years, and Whitworth's principles of accuracy, standardisation and improvement are just as relevant to PLM.

Of course, PLM is much more complex than turning screw threads, but the current state of the PLM industry has many parallels with the "turned by hand, every screw thread is different" situation that Whitworth first encountered

PLM Standardisation does not mean: “making everyone in the company work in the same way as each other”. There may be many reasons why people in different parts of the organisation, or in different countries, or in different subsidiaries or sister companies, should work in slightly different ways to each other.

However, different ways of working normally include ineffective ways of working; and the differences and inconsistencies can waste time, effort and resources.

‘PLM Standardisation’ is therefore the creation of an effective, balanced and practical environment, in which current ways of working are optimised, and from which future ways of working can be improved. The goal of PLM Standardisation is to establish, document and implement a mixed set of standardisation elements that eliminate this waste, and reinforce best practice.

The aim of this *PLM Standardisation Manual* is to show how to do it. The *Manual* provides a structured and thorough approach that was generated by a series of PLMIG workshops in Sweden, Germany, Italy and the UK.

The *Manual* is structured into seven logical parts. Parts 1 & 2 set the scene, covering the background to standardisation in PLM and looking at the standards that currently exist.

Part 3 explains the theory (essential if standardisation is to be done effectively); and Part 4 describes the improved PLM environment that everyone should be aiming for.

Part 5 presents a flowchart of the methodology, and Part 6 lists 18 factors that should be taken into account when the methodology is applied. Part 7 concludes with a look into the medium and long-term future to see how the wider benefits of standardisation can be achieved.

PLM standardisation leads to more faster and more effective working, and embedding "right first time" practices. For mature and successful PLM implementations, this is one of the easiest ways to generate lasting improvement for a relatively small amount of effort.

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