



Comparison between manual and electronic Kanban

Manual Kanban	Electronic Kanban
Mostly chaotic data management using (if at all) Access, Excel or other not suitable systems	Data management in a robust system, specially designed for relational databases
Frequently complicated printing of Kanban cards	Simple and fast printing of several different types of Kanban cards
Very difficult if not impossible handling of a larger number of Kanban loops and cards	Simple and easy handling of thousands of Kanban loops and cards
Sending of Kanban signals over greater distances causes time loss, complications and faults	Automatic sending of up to date information worldwide and avoiding of non-added value activities
All faxes and emails must be sent by hand	Automatic sending of faxes and emails in the background
No support of necessary and repeating Kanban processes (like- automatic card printing, lost cards,)	Automatic support of necessary and repeating processes
Low transparency of current inventory and Kanban orders	Full transparency of current and actual inventory and Kanban orders
No "real time" information about open Kanban orders	"Real-time" information about open Kanban orders and available inventory through the electronic Kanban board
No priority assignments for Kanban orders	Automatic priority assignment for Kanban orders (what is next in the pipeline...)
No alarm in critical situations	Automatic alarm signals and visuals at critical inventory situations and late deliveries
No track of historical inventory movements	Full visibility about historical inventory movements available in order to support inventory reductions and optimization
No track of the actual delivery performance	Online availability of the current and of the historical delivery performance with several additional tools for analyzing the potential problems and improvement areas
Very difficult management of seasonal and variable demands	Automatic calculation of Kanbans needed, based on future demands and customer orders
Very difficult handling of products running out or starting up	Dimensioning of the Kanban loops can be automatically adjusted
Manual data transfer to the host systems and no reporting	Connection to a host system, automatic data transfer and simple access to standard reports

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