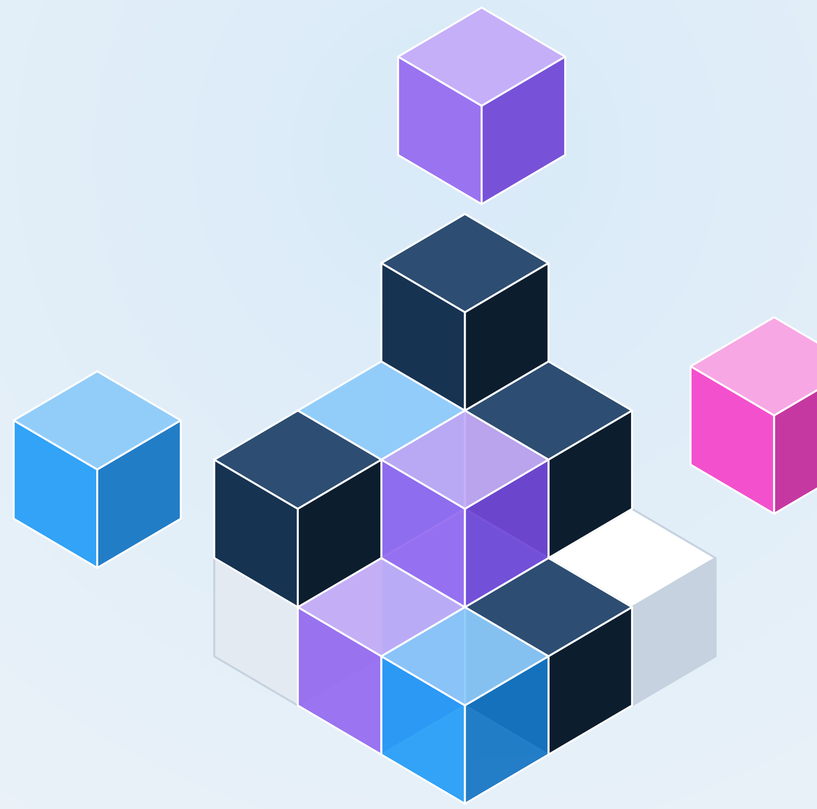
PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

Standardization vs Continuous Improvement

Standardization and continuous improvement work as a pair: a standard holds the current best method, improvement raises it, and the new level becomes the next standard.



01 THE CORE MODEL

STAIR-STEP GRAPH · IMPROVE, THEN HOLD



Standard

The current best method, written and trained; the baseline for change.

Improvement

A tested change that raises performance above the old standard.

Reset

The improvement becomes the new standard, and the cycle starts again.

02 TWO FORCES

Standards alone stagnate; change alone slides back.

ONLY STANDARDS — ONLY CHANGE

STANDARDS ALONE

- \+ Stable, predictable results
- – No progress over time
- – Standards become outdated

CHANGE ALONE

- \+ Many ideas tried
- – Gains slide back
- – Every shift works differently

03 WORKED EXAMPLE

CHANGEOVER ON A PACKAGING LINE · ILLUSTRATIVE

STANDARD
45 min
documented method

→

KAIZEN
Pre-staged parts
trial on two shifts

→

NEW STANDARD
30 min
trained to all teams

→

NEXT KAIZEN
Quick clamps
from the new baseline

04 MANAGEMENT TAKEAWAYS

01
Standardize before you improve
Without a stable baseline you cannot see whether a change worked.

02
Update standards fast
A proven improvement should reach every shift quickly.

03
Audit to hold the step
Routine checks stop the slide back to old habits.

05 COMMON MISTAKE

LIMITATION
Treating standards as fixed rules
Frozen standards block improvement. A standard is the best way today, not forever.