

Andon Systems

Andon is a Japanese term for a system used in manufacturing to alert when there is a production problem in order to minimise any effect on output. Simple Andon systems use signal lights to indicate there is a problem and rely on the signal being noticed by a team leader or supervisor.

Andon lights are reliable indicators on machinery or manual workstations to signal different statuses such as faults or material replenishment requests, Common reasons for activating an Andon include;

- Breakdown, stoppage or problem that the operator cannot rectify.
- Lack of raw materials or parts.
- Quality issue, defect, etc.
- Change of tooling.
- Safety issue.
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In Japanese, Andon is a word originally meaning paper lantern; Japanese manufacturers began to use it in quality control and the system was installed mainly to assist companies trigger incident alerts. Initially these signals were installed to signal a team leader when an operation was in difficulty and that intervention was required (thanks to notifications or visual signals). This is called operator Andon and is triggered by an operator to provide a first level alert.

Andon also plays a very important part in optimising production flow. If your factory is equipped with manual production lines, all operators must have finished their task for production to progress. Used in the manufacturing industry as part of lean management programme, Andon systems allows visual alerts to be raised against anomalies in the production process.

Often physically implemented as a box or a pull line, Andon is foremost a way of alerting the manager to a problem. The nature of the alerts may vary: Delay, machine fault, non-conforming items, the team leader can then take appropriate decisions to solve incidents without losing time.

Who should attend?

All personnel involved in processes and process management

Course duration:

Workshop - 4 to 5 Hours.

Maximum number of delegates: Eight (8) per session.