Guide

Recognise when your production is hitting its limits

What goes wrong every day without you realising it?

Your production is running, orders are being processed, customers are being served, and your team ensures everything keeps going. Yet, it often feels unsettling. Things take longer than necessary, schedules are off, and customer questions are difficult to answer immediately.

In many manufacturing companies, the problem does not lie in one major mistake. It lies in what happens on a daily basis: searching for information, duplicate work, manual adjustments, and making decisions based on incomplete data. Small disruptions that combine to cause delays, higher costs, and less control.

This white paper helps you recognise those signals. Not with theory, but with situations you likely already encounter in the workplace.

Five signs that your production is starting to stall

SIGNAL 1 You lose control of the production schedule

The schedule is sound at the start of the day. But by midday, much of it is already off. Orders shift, materials are missing, and priorities change.
Planners are constantly coordinating and adjusting because they are working with information that is not up-to-date.

Do you recognise this?

- The schedule is manually adjusted daily.
- Planners spend more time aligning than planning.
- There is no shared picture of the current workplace status.

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SIGNAL 2 **Excel and manual solutions keep things running**

Many processes only function because staff have had to invent their own fixes. Relying on disconnected Excel files, emails and personal notes keeps things moving for a while, but the system is fragile.
If someone is absent or makes a mistake, the operational vulnerability becomes obvious.

Do you recognise this?

- Crucial knowledge is stored in personal files.
- Data is maintained separately in multiple systems.
- New employees need time to learn the 'real' way of working.

SIGNAL 3 **Delivery times are being extended and the cost of failure is rising**

Customers are increasingly being told that it is taking longer. Internally, everyone knows roughly why, but it is not clearly understood.
Errors arise from incorrect information, outdated revisions, or unclear handover between departments.

Do you recognise this?

- Delivery reliability drops without a clear cause.
- Repair work is not systematically registered.
- Errors are discovered in production, not in work preparation.

SIGNAL 4 **You lack real-time insight into what is happening**

When a customer calls with a question about an order, you have to search. In systems, with colleagues, or on the shop floor. Without up-to-date insight into order status, inventory, and work in progress, decisions are made based on assumptions.

Do you recognise this?

- Checking order status takes more than five minutes.
- Inventory figures deviate from reality.
- Management decisions are made based on intuition

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SIGNAL 5 **Growth creates more pressure instead of more results**

Your business is growing. More customers, more products, more variants.

But instead of more control, more complexity arises. Processes become more burdensome, errors increase, and the organisation becomes more dependent on manual work.

Do you recognise this?

- Every new customer or product line requires extra manual work.
- Higher revenue does not lead to a proportionally higher margin.
- Processes that worked at first do not hold up with growth.

What this actually costs you

Many of these problems seem small. But together, they have a major impact on your results.

- Search time and alignment cost hundreds of hours per year.
- Failure costs and rework take away a portion of your revenue unnoticed.
- Inventory and working capital remain unnecessarily tied up.

These are not exceptions. This is daily practice in many production environments.

Why this is almost never a human problem

Sometimes it seems as if things need to improve. Working more tightly, planning better, controlling more rigorously.

In practice, you see that employees actually come up with solutions to get the work done. They work around the system.

The cause usually lies in:

- Information that is distributed across systems, files, and people.
- Processes that are not clearly documented.
- Lack of current insight.
- An organisation that is growing faster than the systems can handle.

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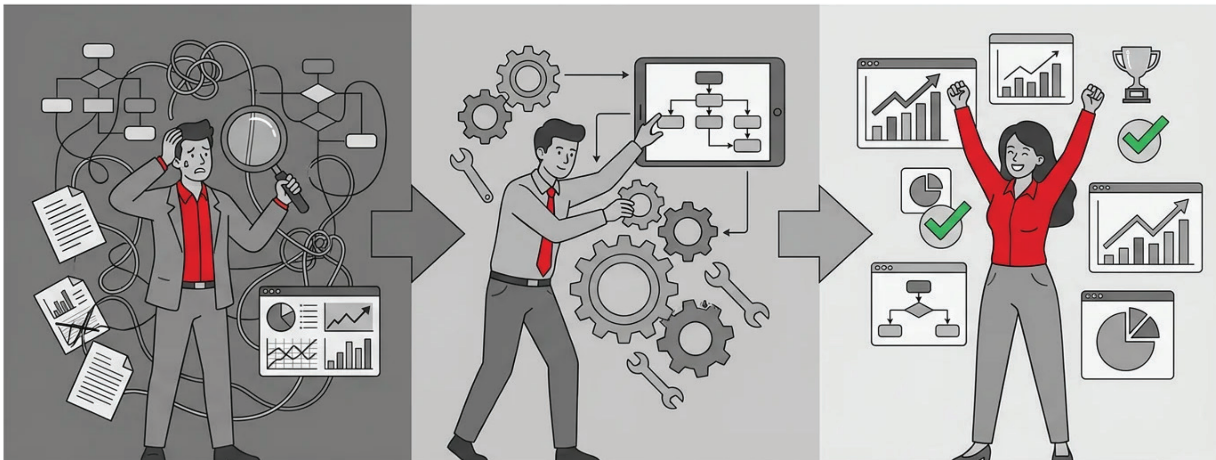
From recognition to action

Do you recognise 2 or more of these signs? Then there is a good chance that your organisation is structurally missing out on revenue. You don't have to solve everything at once. Start with insight.



Step 1
Map out where time is lost daily and where the biggest disruptions are located.

Step 2
Specify concretely what this costs in terms of time, money, and capacity.

Step 3
Choose two or three areas with the greatest impact and tackle those first.

The next step

Do you want to know where the greatest gains can be made in your organisation?
By analysing your order process and identifying bottlenecks, you gain insight into where you can improve fastest. Not based on intuition, but on what actually happens in your company.
This is how you work towards more control, better planning, and an organisation that grows without extra pressure.

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