7 STEPS TO BUILD AN END-TO-END QUALITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

➔ Cost is king for discrete manufacturers, and ensuring top quality for your products can be a costly endeavor if not properly managed. Areas often targeted are prevention and assurance costs as they can be deemed excessive, but this increases the likelihood for failure costs and introduces risk into the business. But in the quest for cost reductions, quality cannot be sacrificed. The challenge is to reduce your costs while maintaining high quality in your products. Quality is an ongoing endeavor, but discrete companies should look to incorporate these seven steps:

☐	**Establish senior executive focus on quality management.** A focus on quality must start from the top, as management has direct responsibility for quality improvements within a company. Both Leaders and Followers have quality as an executive priority.
☐	**Automatically collect quality data in a standardized QMS system.** A standardized system eliminates and harmonizes disparate point solutions for quality, reducing errors in quality information, while collecting quality information in real time makes quality an integral part of the manufacturing process.
☐	**Utilize statistical analysis on this real-time quality data**. Analyses like statistical process control (SPC) or failure mode and effects analysis (FMEA) can be undertaken in real time to improve the reliability and control over manufacturing processes. Leaders are 77% more likely to turn their quality data into insight.
☐	**Extend quality into the supply chain**. Suppliers are critical to quality and need to be viewed as strategic partners. Supplier collaboration, real-time visibility into supplier performance, and regular audits are items discrete Leaders rely on for success.
☐	**Implement a quality management system that is integrated with the enterprise**. Combining QMS, ERP, and MES creates a platform for cross-functional communication and collaboration that synchronizes and ingrains quality across the value chain.
☐	**Turn to automation for your manufacturing and quality processes**. A manual or paper-based system is not accurate and simply cannot provide the real-time visibility needed to manage quality in today's business environment.
☐	**Apply continuous improvement thinking to take your quality program to the next level.** There are always areas in any quality program that can be improved. Utilize cross-functional CI teams and analytics to uncover hidden savings in the business.

➔ **Read the full report**: Quality in Discrete Manufacturing: End-to-End Approach to Ensure Satisfaction and Reduce Costs

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