# A Comprehensive Guide to Human Error Reduction in Manufacturing

Human error is a major cause of accidents, injuries, and quality defects in manufacturing. In fact, according to the National Safety Council, human error is a factor in up to 90% of all workplace accidents.

The good news is that human error can be reduced. By understanding the causes of human error and implementing effective prevention strategies, manufacturers can create a safer and more productive work environment.



#### Human Error Reduction in Manufacturing by Mike Clayton

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### **Understanding the Causes of Human Error**

There are many different factors that can contribute to human error. Some of the most common causes include:

Fatigue

- Stress
- Distraction
- Lack of training
- Poor design
- Inadequate procedures

It is important to note that human error is not always the result of carelessness or recklessness. Even the most experienced and conscientious workers can make mistakes. This is why it is so important to have systems in place to prevent and mitigate human error.

#### **Implementing Effective Human Error Prevention Strategies**

There are a number of different strategies that manufacturers can use to reduce human error. Some of the most effective strategies include:

- Error proofing: Error proofing involves designing products and processes to make it impossible or difficult to make mistakes. For example, a manufacturer could use a poka yoke device to prevent a worker from assembling a product incorrectly.
- Mistake proofing: Mistake proofing involves training workers to recognize and correct mistakes. For example, a manufacturer could train workers to double-check their work or to use checklists to ensure that all steps are completed correctly.
- Root cause analysis: Root cause analysis is a process of investigating the underlying causes of human error. By understanding

why errors occur, manufacturers can develop more effective prevention strategies.

- Human factors engineering: Human factors engineering is the study of how people interact with their environment. By understanding the human factors that contribute to human error, manufacturers can design products and processes that are more user-friendly and less error-prone.
- Training: Training is essential for preventing human error. Workers need to be trained on proper procedures, safety protocols, and error prevention techniques.
- Supervision: Supervisors play a vital role in preventing human error. They can help to identify and correct unsafe practices, and they can provide support and guidance to workers.

Human error is a major problem in manufacturing, but it can be reduced. By understanding the causes of human error and implementing effective prevention strategies, manufacturers can create a safer and more productive work environment.

#### **Additional Resources**

- National Safety Council: Human Factors
- Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
- OSHA: Ergonomics

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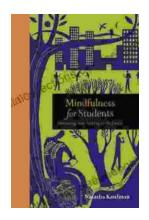


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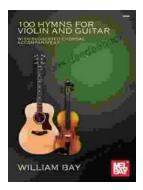
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