

Hi,

Here's a story about Richard when he was a newly-employed grinder operator at a site where it was thought that Statistical Process Control (SPC) could not be used. It was felt that operators would adjust their processes too often since the control range would be narrower than the tolerance range. In a well-adjusted grinder, the control range can be less than 0.002 millimetres.

Richard had not heard about this myth and quickly adopted the tool. His workmates at the other machines started to notice that Richard was less stressed. In addition, he measured his process less frequently, he produced more, and discarded less.

How could this be? Well,

- Using SPC you measure the mean value of several measurements.
- The mean values vary very little compared to individual measurements.
- The mean values are plotted on a control chart.
- The control range is automatically adjusted to these mean values.

Using the control chart, Richard could easily read his process. He realised that he had previously often adjusted the process completely unnecessarily and had thus worsened the outcome.

Using SPC he could now carry out the right measure at the right time and for the right reason. This will also be the effect no matter what you manufacture.

Regards,

[Michael Nielsen](#)