

ABSTRACT

This is an Operations Research type of consultancy project undertaken to investigate apparent losses and gains of products during transportation, storage, blending and packaging of basic oils, additives and blended lubricants at a local Lubricating Oil (luboil) Blending Plant. The attempt was to minimise and control all handling losses and explain the reasons for the apparent gains.

Because of the confidential nature of the operations, the plant is not identified by name, and the through-put figures (obtainable, and listed as well as used in the analysis) are representative samples only. The products are identified by letters (A, B, C, etc.) for the same reason.

It was found that only human and mechanical errors and inefficiencies were responsible for the apparent losses and gains by way of incorrect application of operating and recording techniques, and the use of non-standard, inaccurate and poorly maintained measuring equipment.