



BUSINESS VITAMINS

Six sigma belts illustration scenes

Introduction

Six Sigma (6σ) is a set of management techniques intended to improve business processes by greatly reducing the probability that an error or defect will occur.

It was first introduced at Motorola in 1986 by American engineer Bill Smith along with several other people including Dr. Mikel Harry and CEO Bob Galvin, they developed the idea and term Six Sigma to significantly reduce product defects while working.

Sigma (σ) is a Greek letter and symbol defining the standard deviation of a population. By adding and subtracting the value of three standard deviations to the mean or average of your data, you should encompass approximately 99.73% of your data, according to the Empirical Rule and relates to the Normal Distribution.

A process is often described as being Six Sigma if the closest specification is at least six standard deviations away from the mean. If your specification is that far away, then Six Sigma will be defined as a process having 3.4 defects per million opportunities (DPMO).

Six sigma martial art concept of belts' rankings is often credited to Dr. Mikel Harry.

The level of training, competency, and acquisition of skills is indicated by the hierarchy of belts with White being the least ranking level and Master Black Belt being the most advanced one.

Six sigma belts system's definition

The Six Sigma Belt levels can be compared to the belt levels in martial arts. As a practitioner, your belt varies depending on your skills, knowledge, training, and expertise. The more you advance your knowledge and skills, the higher your rank.

The importance

The belts system illustrates the roles and responsibilities of each individual according to the level of experience and skills.

Six Sigma belts system Details

1. **White Belt:** Understands the structure and goals of lean six Sigma using basic lean Six Sigma vocabulary terms, report process issues to green and black belts.
2. **Yellow Belt:** Understands basic lean Six Sigma concepts, reports process issues to Green Belts and Black Belts, participates on projects teams and receives just-in-time training.
3. **Green Belt:** Starts and manages lean Six Sigma projects, has lean six Sigma expertise but in less detail than Black Belts and provides just-in-time training to others.
4. **Black Belt:** Can report to a Master Black Belt, has advanced lean Six Sigma expertise, functions as a coach, mentor, teacher and project leader for project teams.
5. **Master Black Belt:** Works with leaders to identify gaps and select projects. Coaches, mentors, teaches, monitors and leads projects. Responsible for lean six Sigma implementation and culture change.
6. **Champion:** Executive leader who drives initiative, helps select projects and remove barriers for project teams, supports change and develop a lean Six Sigma culture.



How to choose which belt certification is best suited for you?

1. **Yellow belt certification:**

Give the general view of six sigma approach. A kind of six sigma certification related to awareness of the concept. This is a foundational certificate, which every employee should undergo in a six-sigma oriented organization.

2. **Green belt certification:**

It's a second level certification, which focuses on developing Six Sigma green belts. Green belts in most of the organizations, work on ad hoc basis in a six-sigma project. But this certification paves your way to six sigma journeys. You can master the basics of six sigma after going through green belt certification.

3. **Black Belt certification:**

This is an advanced level Six Sigma certification. Here, you get the exposure to high level six sigma approach. It is always advisable, yet not mandatory, to obtain green belt before going for black belt certification. Black belt certification equips you to exercise Black belt roles. You'll be able to lead six sigma projects independently after obtaining BB certification.

4. **Master Black Belt certification:**

This is a top-level Six Sigma certification. It is oriented for the six sigma mentor and coach roles. After obtaining BB certificate and leading some six sigma projects as BB, you can pursue for MBB certification. MBB certification not only certifies you as a master of six sigma methodology but also, develops your coaching and facilitation skills.

In addition, if you are taking a project sponsor or champion role, you should pursue yellow belt certification. For a process owner, green belt certification is advisable

