

Sterling Foster

Quality Assurance Manager at Senior Flexonics

Summary

Experienced quality professional with extensive Six Sigma, Lean Manufacturing and ISO 9001:2008 experience in the aerospace, linear motion, electromechanical assembly, and plastics industries. Excellent catalyst for change and a zealot for Lean / Six Sigma improvements. With almost 20 years of ISO 9001 Management Rep experience, my toolbox is brimming with best practices and benchmarks of successful systems and operational practices.

Specialties

ISO 9001 implementation, organizational change management, process management, and leadership.

Experience

Quality Assurance Manager at Senior Flexonics

June 2015 - Present (7 months)

Oversee and manage TS16949 QMS including supplier development, Internal Quality Auditor training, CAPA, and APQP. KPI tracking and improvement using Lean/Six Sigma tools. Manage quality control functions including calibration, product audits, and Layered Process auditing. Leadership and Strategy Deployment.

Quality Supervisor at Plexus Corp.

June 2013 - June 2015 (2 years 1 month)

Managing new product introductions, including APQP, FMEA, Control Plans, Inspection Work Instructions. Performing Internal Audits (ISO 9001, ISO 14001). Customer relations, including Key Quality Metrics, CAPA, Design change review. Managing supplier quality function, quality engineering, and quality technicians. Training Quality Inspectors and developing Inspection documentation

Senior Quality Engineer at Plexus Corp.

June 2012 - June 2013 (1 year 1 month)

Develop and implement quality systems. Provide data analysis, perform technical studies (DOE, Cpk, GR&R) to guide manufacturing towards improved performance. Implement Cost of Poor Quality measurement standard at Buffalo Grove facility and provide company-wide benchmark for CoPQ Dashboard and reporting.

Quality Assurance and Performance Systems Manager at Magnet -Schultz of America

June 2011 - May 2012 (1 year)

Magnet-Schultz designs and manufactures electro-magnetic and hydraulic solenoids. As the Manager of Quality Assurance and Performance Systems, my responsibilities will include the maintenance and continual improvement of the ISO9001 Quality Management System, improving key performance metrics, auditing, and facilitating continual improvement teams.

Quality Assurance Manager at Weber-Stephen Products Company

December 2008 - June 2011 (2 years 7 months)

Quality Systems development including Key Performance Indicators. Manage the corrective and preventive action processes. Facilitate the Material Review Board system and nonconformance tracking. Daily Management of SAP Quality Module for Inspection and Dock to Stock transactions.

Manager, Corporate Quality at U.S. Tsubaki, Inc.

March 2006 - December 2008 (2 years 10 months)

Implementation of ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 Quality Management System. Managed the ISO implementation at 6 different facilities. Developed and implemented the Continuous Improvement System based on Six-Sigma DMAIC concepts. Oversaw the development and implementation of a Corrective Action on-line system for all facilities including Headquarters. Implemented Document Control and Calibration based on the ISO 9001 Standard.

Quality Assurance Manager at Danaher Motion

March 2004 - May 2006 (2 years 3 months)

Led the re-implementation of AS 9100 at the precision ball screw manufacturing facility resulting in supplier contracts with Boeing, Moog, and Goodyear. Managed the ISO 9001:2000, QS-9000 and AS 9100 Certification efforts at three facilities, resulting in successful certifications at each facility. Managed the Lean Manufacturing initiatives, leading Kaizen events resulting in the reduction of returns, reductions in scrap, and improvements in productivity - 25,000 DPM reduction in returns, \$46,000 reduction in scrap in six months. Aligned the Quality Management Systems at 3 manufacturing sites. Managed a staff of 12 Quality Engineers and 22 Quality Technicians at three different locations.

Organizations

Board of Directors - Lexington in the Park Condo Assn

Vice President

May 2013 to Present

Certifications

Certified Manager of Quality / Organizational Excellence

American Society for Quality License 16181 February 2013 to June 2017

Certified Quality Auditor

ASQ License 41500 December 2010 to December 2013

Certified Six Sigma Green Belt

Honors and Awards

Certified Six Sigma Green Belt

ASQ

December 2012

Certified Quality Auditor

ASQ

March 2012

Courses

Independent Coursework

International Business

Languages

German

Skills & Expertise

Iso 9000

(Expert, 20+ years experience)

Leadership

(Expert, 20+ years experience)

Continuous Improvement

(Expert, 20+ years experience)

ISO 14001

ISO

Quality Management

5S

Lean Manufacturing

Six Sigma

Quality Assurance

Supply Chain

CAPA

Process Improvement

Manufacturing

Quality System

Engineering

Cross-functional Team Leadership

SAP

Process Engineering

Supplier Quality

Root Cause Analysis

FMEA

CQE

ISO 13485

5 Why

CQA

APQP

SPC

Value Stream Mapping

Supply Chain Management

Kaizen

TQM

Calibration

DMAIC

PPAP

Manufacturing Operations Management

Supply Management

Aerospace

Manufacturing Engineering

Minitab

Manufacturing Operations

Design for Manufacturing

Design of Experiments

MRP

Change Management

Quality Auditing

Kanban

Quality Control

Operational Excellence

AS9100

Education

University of Missouri-Columbia

Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Industrial Engineering, 1978 - 1984

Grade: 3.0 / 4.0

Activities and Societies: President - National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Dean's List, Intramurals

Honors and Awards

ASQ Certified Quality Engineer, ISO 9001:2000 Lead Auditor - RAB, Six Sigma Green Belt, Golden Key

International Honor Society

Interests

3 beautiful children - Arlington, Sophia and Olivia.

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11 people have recommended Sterling

"Goal oriented, leads by example and has a enormous appetite for getting better/improving both personally and professionally. "

— **Raj O.**, *Professional Consulting Environmental Engineer, Raj Ojha, P.E.*, worked with Sterling at Senior Flexonics

"Ex. Sterling is very detailed-oriented and produced great results for the company..."

— **Chris P.**, *NCM COORDINATOR, Plexus*, worked with Sterling at Plexus Corp.

"Sterling is a highly motivated, dedicated, and qualified Quality Control team leader. Sterling possesses a firm grasp of the scientific as well as the managerial concepts required to be a successful QC expert. Sterling also clearly understands the commercial implications of manufacturing a consistently high quality product."

— **Michael D.**, worked with Sterling at Magnet -Schultz of America

"By far working for Sterling has had the biggest impact on my career and personal choices. More than a manager, Sterling has been a mentor and at some times a spiritual guide at the start of my career. His ability to lead effectively by coercing the energy and attention of a group towards working together to achieve a common goal is very impressive and inspiring. Most importantly, Sterling has influenced my mind to commit to the path of continuous improvement by stressing the significance of stability that must be achieved in all things by reducing the peaks and valleys in life, and thus taking control. In essence, this idea is the general principle behind Six Sigma and is a methodology worth studying and applying to every aspect of my life."

— **Ron H.**, reported to Sterling at Weber-Stephen Products Company

"I worked with Sterling in the capacity of Project Manager. When quality issues arose prior and during prototype builds and pilots, Sterling was very detailed in determining the cause in a short amount of time. He always provided me a status without me requesting one. Sterling is someone I can always count on. He is great to work with. A true professional."

— **Anthony J. G.**, worked with Sterling at Weber-Stephen Products Company

"Sterling is an excellent Quality Assurance Manager. He is quick to find the root cause of a particular issue, and make recommendations on how to consistently control the issue going forward. His technical knowledge is outstanding and he is able to relate this knowledge to less technical people in way that is easily understandable. He is a reliable teammate and is willing putting in extra effort to complete the analysis of an issue in a timely manner. His ever-present smile and outgoing personality make it very easy and enjoyable to work with him."

— **George R.**, worked with Sterling at Weber-Stephen Products Company

"I had the pleasure of working with Sterling at Danaher Motion. I had recently been promoted to Quality Manager and needed to create an organization to become an ISO 9001 certified company. I hired Sterling based on his previous experience and he was everything and more than I could have expected. He worked with all the functions of the organization to detail their processes and provide guidance for improvement. Within 6 months of his hiring, we successfully completed our ISO certification. Sterling was invaluable and we could not have done it without him. As part of our gratitude and vision for the company, we promoted Sterling to Quality Manager as I transferred to another location. He was a stellar leader and his interpersonal skills were second to none. I wish there were more like him to hire."

— **Brian Christopher**, managed Sterling at Weber-Stephen Products Company

"I have found Sterling Foster to be one of the most thoughtful and professional people I have ever worked with. His knowledge of processes and Quality systems, combined with empathy for the employees and users of those systems and processes is remarkable. He is an extremely hard worker, and his ability to act as a value-added change agent is second to none. He works well with all levels of the organization, takes the time to understand the requirements of customers and suppliers, and incorporates all of it into seamless process flows. His attention to detail is impeccable. Organizations with a true quality-mindset need people like Sterling to make it happen."

— **Michael T.**, worked with Sterling at U.S. Tsubaki, Inc.

"Sterling Foster is truly one of the most professional Engineering Managers that I have had the distinct pleasure to work with. He is thoroughly professional, with a keen eye for detail, and represents his profession extremely well. I would happily put Sterling in front of any of my clients that sought a good Quality Manager with a wide breadth and depth of experience who would not dissappoint."

— **Zachary Paeth**, was with another company when working with Sterling at U.S. Tsubaki, Inc.

"Sterling is a standout in his field of expertise. He brings a continuously evolving skill set that is built on academic achievements and a pursuit of personal excellence. Sterling has a resourcefulness that is planned, calculated and well deployed, others would give up and walk away when facing big challenges, Sterling would not. Resourceful people such as Sterling can figure things out on their own. He finds the way to make

decisions, provide guidance and make things work. He finds solutions to problems using creative methods developed by his years of real world experiences. Resourcefulness seems to come naturally to Sterling."

— **Bart C.**, *Senior Operations Manager / Technical Manager / Senior Staff Executive, Danaher Corporation*, worked directly with Sterling at Danaher Motion

"Sterling is detail-oriented, uses the systems approach in implementing new quality processes. During the time we worked together, he was instrumental in taking our teams and process controls to the next level."

— **Brenda B.**, worked with Sterling at Danaher Motion

[Contact Sterling on LinkedIn](#)