



Dial Into Efficiency

Take a moment to notice the sounds around you – the hum of machinery, the ventilation, distant activity. These are audible sounds in the environment; however, there is also an ocean of inaudible soundwaves around you. Pull out a radio, turn the dial, and you'll experience a frequency of new sounds.

The autistic mind operates on a different cognitive frequency. Where a neurotypical manager might hear the standard hum of operations, an autistic employee is often tuned to the disruptive "noise" of systemic waste – the hidden inefficiencies that drain productivity.

This tool is your radio dial. We're going to tune into 4 categories of silent waste: Product, Time, Talent, and Process. Your goal is not to audit your people, but to decode the signals within the system.

Question 1:

Identify one department, team, or specific position where you consistently feel a drag on efficiency, but can't perfectly pinpoint why.

(e.g., "Second-shift assembly," "QC documentation," "The shipping clerk role.")

Department/Position: _____

Question 2:

Describe one recurring, tangible symptom of friction in this area. What specifically happens, breaks down, or causes delay? Be objective.

(e.g., "The daily material count takes 25 minutes instead of 10," "We have a 5% error rate on custom SKU paperwork," "The machine sits idle for the first 15 minutes of each shift.")


Observed Friction: _____


Question 3:

Categorize the friction above into its primary form of waste. (Choose one.)

 **Product Waste:** Defects, rework, or unproduced inventory.

 **Time Waste:** Idling of people or equipment, waiting.

 **Talent Waste:** Skills underutilized; people in roles that don't match their strengths.

 **Process Waste:** Unnecessary motion, transport, over-processing, or complexity.

Primary Waste Category: _____



Question 4:

What is the systemic cause of this waste? Look beyond people to the process, tooling, or communication structure. What is causing the friction?

(e.g., "The intake forms are visually cluttered and lack clear fields," "The raw materials are stored two bays over from the workstation," "The decision-point requires approval from someone who is rarely onsite.")

Systemic Root: _____

Question 5:

Now, apply this thinking elsewhere. Name a different area of your operations where the same type of waste *[Answer from Q3]* might be silently occurring, even if it's not yet causing visible friction. In other words, where else is this systemic root liable to present?

Secondary Area of Risk: _____

Question 6:

What are the downstream consequences of this waste? *(Think ripple effects: e.g., "Machine downtime idles the entire downstream assembly team," "Rework consumes engineering time that could be spent on new product development," "An over-complex process forces us to use overqualified, expensive talent.")*

Secondary Consequences: _____

Question 7:

What is the estimated monthly cost of this waste? *(Lost hours? Missed units? Rework expenses? Managerial attention?)*



Estimate: \$ _____ or _____ **hrs/month**

***If a monetary estimate is impossible, gauge its operational severity (1=Low, 10=Critical):** _____

Question 8:

This requires a creative leap. If you could implement *one* simple, rule-based solution to eliminate the waste you identified in Question 2, what would it be? Don't worry about feasibility yet. Think in principles.

(e.g., "A red-border folder for all non-standard orders that triggers a mandatory manager review," "A shadow board with tool outlines and a 'missing' tag system," "A 5-minute standardized pre-start check executed before production.")

Potential Solution: _____

Question 9:

What's the biggest key to a successful implementation? Who or what is necessary to achieve this improvement?

(e.g., "Getting buy-in from the Plant Manager," "Redesigning the intake form," "Securing a small budget for a pilot," "Shifting the team's appetite for change")

The Necessary Key: _____

Question 10: If you could achieve this one enhancement in the next 30 days, would your organization's overall productivity increase?

Yes

No



You've Just Calibrated Your Receiver!

The strategic advantage isn't just in *finding* the noise – it's in building a culture that *adapts* to it.

If your answers sparked a realization about the cost or the solution, let's talk. The friction found here can transform into a foundation for efficiency.

→ **Ready to Fix the Friction?**

Schedule your 15-minute Signal Review Call:

1. Email: ben@stannumcore.com
2. Subject Line: "Signal Review: [your company name]"
3. In your email, just mention the role/friction point you identified.
We'll take it from there and send you a scheduling link.

Not ready for a call but want feedback?

Email your completed worksheet to the same email address with the subject line "Worksheet Review." You'll receive a free video with personalized insights.



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