

**Bimble** (bɪmbəl) *v.* To spend time on substitution activities, instead of productive work.

Examples include:

- facing to perfection/end of the shift;
- using inappropriate transport for stock such as parking a pallet or cage too far away from where it is needed and then carrying the stock by hand;
- carrying stock one by one when it would be more appropriate to carry more;
- stopping work when holding a conversation with a manager.

**Bimble Coefficient** (bɪmbəl kəʊfɪjənt) *n.* An objective value ( $\zeta$ ) that is the result of assessing what proportion of a particular colleague's time is spent doing unproductive work ( $v$ ) as opposed to productive work ( $\varphi$ ) such that...

$$\zeta = \frac{v}{(v + \varphi)}$$

Examples of unproductive work include:

- spending too much time facing;
- carrying stock items/cases from a cage/pallet that is inappropriately far away, to where they are needed;
- carrying stock one unit at a time instead of more, if appropriate.

Examples of productive work are:

- sorting out customers' shopping needs;
- cardboarding;
- removing damaged stock;
- sorting stock on the shelves into lanes;
- putting products on shelves; and,
- pulling forward.

**Bimble<sup>1</sup>** (bɪmbəld) *v.* An aisle which, towards the end of the shift, exhibits near-perfect facing, that it has been the object of bimbaling.

**Bimble<sup>2</sup>** *n. p.t.* A colleague's otherwise well planned and executed shift that has been the subject of bimbaling<sup>1</sup> from other colleagues, such as having work-flow ordering disrupted unnecessarily.

**Bimblee** (bɪmbli:) *n.* The victim of bimbaling or bimbaling<sup>1</sup> – the bimble<sup>2</sup>.

**Bimble** (bɪmblə) *n.* A colleague in the act of bimbaling.

**Bimbaling** (bɪmbəlɪŋ) *v.* The act of performing a substitution activity instead of productive work.

**Bimbaling<sup>1</sup>** (bɪmbələɪzɪjən) *n.* The diversion of attention of a population of colleagues away from productive work, towards non-productive work, ie, work that does not contribute directly or indirectly to the job they were doing.

**Bimbaling<sup>2</sup>** *n.* The transformation of a productive practice into an unproductive one. An example is facing pulled-forward stock. Productive facing front-aligns stock on a centimetric basis for large bags and toilet/kitchen rolls and a millimetric basis for small bags, bottles, boxes and tins. Unproductive extension of this practice aligns the millimetric group on a sub-millimetric basis and the centimetric group on a millimetric basis. The disproportionate amount of activity extension time for this is bimbaling.

**Bimbaling Activity** (bɪmbələɪzɪjən aktɪvɪti:) *n.* A given diversion from colleagues' work.

Examples (not limited to)...

Incoming-stock-management time-wasting examples include:

- distribution centres sending pallets with promotional stock mixed in with or on top of normal delivery stock;
- stock stacked on pallets inappropriately such that cases collapse under the weight;
- edible and non-edible stock on the same palette;
- multiple pallets with duplicate department groups on instead of separate departments on different pallets;
- damaged stock on pallets;
- damaged stock damaging other stock on that pallet;
- returning for reprocessing the previous day's unprocessed/unsorted/unpicked overs.

Shopfloor time-wasting activities include:

- failure of provision of enough resources such as empty cages for rubbish/overs, Shrink-wrap, Daleks or pump trucks thus resulting in colleagues searching for them or using alternative strategies;
- breaking down mixed-department pallets;
- getting colleagues to stop their work temporarily, to go and perform an errand that could have been better executed by somebody else; and,
- allowing/encouraging situations to exist that get colleagues to perform their work in an out-of-sequence order that is disruptive to their current work sequence.

**Bimbalingism** (bɪmbələɪzɪjənɪzəm) *n.* The long-term bimbaling of a population of colleagues that results in their overall reduction in productivity.

**Bimbalingism Coefficient** (bɪmbələɪzɪjənɪzəm kəʊfɪjənt) *n.* An objective assessment of the impact of a particular bimbaling activity on the colleague population. It is evaluated in terms of the proportion of colleague time spent over a number of shifts performing the bimbaling activity, compared to the colleague time available during those shifts.

**Bimblism** (bɪmbɪlɪzəm) *n.* The large-scale effect of bimbaling.

**Bimblist** (bɪmbɪlɪst) *n.* A colleague whose Bimble Coefficient averages at greater than 0.5 for an extended number of shifts.

**Bimblistic** (bɪmbɪlɪstɪk) *adj.* Having the qualities of bimblism.

**Bimblistically** (bɪmbɪlɪstɪkli:) *adverb.* Performed in a bimblistic manner.

**Bimblosity** (bɪmbəlɒsɪti:) *n.* The propensity of a particular aisle to attract bimbaling from a random sample of colleagues.

**Bimblosity Coefficient** (bɪmbəlɒsɪti: kəʊfɪjənt) *n.* An objective measure of the propensity of a particular aisle to attract bimbaling from a random sample of colleagues. It is measured by comparing the bimble coefficient of each colleague on other aisles with the aisle under study and thus can have values in a positive range that extends from less than one to greater than one.