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Statistical Process Control is an analytical decision making tool which allows you to see when a process is working correctly and when it is not. Variation is present in any process, deciding when the variation is natural and when it needs correction is the key to quality control. Control charts show the variation in a measurement during the time period that the process is observed. In contrast, bell-curve type charts, such as histograms or process capability charts, show a summary or snapshot of the results. Control charts are an essential tool of continuous quality control. Control charts monitor Statistical Process Control. OTHER STATISTICS TEXTS FROM CHAPMAN AND HALL Practical Statistics for Medical Research Douglas Altman The Analysis of Time Series C. Chatfield Problem Solving: A Statistician's Guide C. Chatfield Statistics for Technology C. Chatfield Introduction to Multivariate Analysis C. Chatfield and A. J. Collins Applied Statistics D. R. Cox and E. J. Snell An Introduction to Statistical Modelling A. J. Dobson Introduction to and Hall statistics books is available from the publishers. Statistical Process Control Theory and practice G. Barrie Wetherill Director, Industrial Statistics Research Unit, University of Newcastle upon Tyne. Don W. Brown Consultant in Mathematics and Statistics ICI Chemicals and Polymers Ltd. Statistical Process Control (SPC) is a set of methods first created by Walter A. Shewhart at Bell Laboratories in the early 1920's. W. Edwards Deming standardized SPC for the American industry during WWII and introduced it to Japan during the American occupation after the war. SPC became a key part of Six-Sigma, the Toyota Production System and, by extension, lean manufacturing. SPC measures the outputs of processes, looking for small but statistically significant changes, so that corrections can be made before defects occur. SPC was first used within manufacturing, where it can greatly reduce Statistical process control (SPC) is defined as the use of statistical techniques to control a process or production method. SPC tools and procedures can help you monitor process behavior, discover issues in internal systems, and find solutions for production issues. Statistical process control is often used interchangeably with statistical quality control (SQC). SPC tools. SQC vs. SPC.