Production Release Control and the Push/Pull and Make-to-Order/Make-to-Stock Distinctions

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Abstract
We consider three elementary mechanisms for controlling the release of parts for production in manufacturing systems: 1) controlling raw part arrivals, 2) authorizing releases based on work-in-process, and 3) responding to actual demands. We discuss different variants of these mechanisms on a simple production system, and we use these variants as a basis to revisit the push/pull and make-to-order/make-to-stock distinctions.

Key words: production release control; push; pull; make-to-stock; make-to-order.