The Manufacturing Process

Lynx Grills

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The Lynx Grill is a high end stainless steel gas grill that is manufactured in Downey, CA by Lynx Grills, Inc. The Lynx Grill retails at $6,399 and is sold nationwide through retailers as well as online retailers. The company began in 1996 and its focus was to manufacture and specialize in residential outdoor cooking equipment (Lynx Grills). As the years passed, the company expanded and began to offer more than just grills. Today the company produces not only grills but also outdoor bars, sinks, and doors. Lynx Grills is best known in the industry for its innovations that years later become the industry standard. This paper will discuss the manufacturing process of the Lynx Grill.

The grill begins as a single sheet of stainless steel. The manufacturing process begins in the fabrication, moves to welding, then to grinding and polishing, and finally ends in assembly and packaging. (Single Sheet of Steel). In the fabrication department the stainless steel is run through a series of different laser and punch machines. The laser and punch machines cut the sheet of stainless steel into different shapes and punches out the pieces that are needed. The stainless steel parts then move to the welding department where they are welded together. Instead of using screws that can come loose, the grills are welded together to create seamless pieces. The pieces then move to grinding where all the weld marks are grinded out. This department is responsible for making the products look good. It is where they add polished mirror edges to the grill to give it that classic look that the Lynx Grill is so well known for. Finally the products move to the assembly department where the interior parts of the grill like the burners, igniters, and knobs are added. It is in this department they fire up the grills and test them to ensure they are ready for packaging. At the end of the assembly line, the grills are packaged.

Raw materials are defined by the textbook as the basic materials and parts used in the manufacturing process. Raw materials includes both direct and indirect materials. Raw materials used to make the Lynx Grill include stainless steel, brass burners, infrared burners, blue LEDs, lubrication for the machines, and goggles and ear plugs for the employees.

Direct materials are materials that are materials that are used and become part of the final product. Manufacturers will keep a bill of materials or BOM for any product they manufacture. The direct materials of the Lynx Grill are sheets of 304 stainless steel, knobs, blue LEDs, handles, brass burners, infrared burners, igniters, transformers (Lynx Grills).

Indirect materials are defined as materials that are not directly associated with the product being made. Instead these materials are related to keeping the factory or the machines in working in condition. The indirect materials for Lynx Grills can include the thinner used to polish the grills as a final touch, the lubricant used to keep grinding machines in good condition, or the screws used to keep the igniters in place. Goggles and ear plugs are also important indirect materials at Lynx Grills. Safety is always a number one priority at the company and therefore everyone who is in the factory must always wear goggles and ear plugs. Indirect materials become a part of manufacturing overhead.
Direct labor is the labor associated with the direct manufacturing process of the product. In this company’s case, it would be referring to all the non-supervisor employees in the factory that physically work on the grills. This would include anyone in the fabrication, welding, grinding, and assembly departments.

Indirect labor is the labor associated with the labor of employees that are part of the manufacturing process but do not physically work on the grills. Lynx Grills has supervisors for each department and a production manager that oversees all the production of the company. The factory maintenance crew would also be considered part of indirect labor as they maintain the factory but do not physically work on the grills. The salaries of these people would make up the indirect labor.

Manufacturing overhead is made up of costs that are indirectly related to the production of a product. The main components of manufacturing overhead are indirect materials, indirect labor, depreciation on factory equipment and factory buildings. There are numerous expensive machines at Lynx Grills. The depreciation costs on these laser and punch machines would be included as manufacturing overhead. The depreciation on the factory building would also be included in manufacturing overhead. There are also small items that are too small in cost to be part of the direct materials like various screws and nuts that would be considered part of the indirect materials and therefore manufacturing overhead.

Job order costing would be used when each individual product or job was customized and tailored for a specific client. No two projects would be the same and therefore their direct materials, direct labor, and manufacturing overhead costs would differ from project to project. Process costing would be used where the products or jobs were homogenous in nature and did not require any customization. Lynx Grills would use a process costing system. While there are different configurations offered, the grills are not custom tailored to individual clients. Each grill goes through the same process, they are mass produced. This process costing system makes sense for this company. The materials are assigned out in bulk and are issued in quantities large enough to produce products for the entire month. The laser machines are not programmed for each individual job, instead they are programmed to run the same parts for longer periods of time. Each grill goes through the same process of welding and grinding and no grill receives special additional features.

Works Cited