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**Andon Chord**

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**From** stacy smith [REDACTED]**Date** Tue 5/20/2025 5:14 PM**To** commissionstreamlining <commissionstreamlining@sfgov.org> 1 attachment (752 KB)

Andon - Toyota Production System guide - Toyota UK Magazine.pdf;

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Greetings CS,

Please send this two (2) page document to the entire task force for their consideration.

Thank You,  
Stacy SmithSent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.



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How To

# Andon – Toyota Production System guide



By Toyota Blog

31 May 2016

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Every Toyota member is viewed as an expert in their field and each and every one is permitted to stop the production line if they spot something they perceive to be a threat to vehicle quality – and they do so by using the **Andon** cable.

**Andon** (English: ‘Sign’ or ‘Signal’): A visual aid that highlights where action is required. It is a typical tool in applying the *Jidoka*, or ‘autonomation’, principle, which means highlighting a problem as it occurs in order to immediately countermeasure the issue and prevent re-occurrence

Originating from the word for a paper lantern, *Andon* is a term that refers to an illuminated signal notifying others of a problem within the quality-control or production streams.

Activation of the alert – usually by a pull-cord or button – automatically halts production so that a solution can be found. The warning lights are incorporated into an easily visible, overhead signboard (or [Kanban](#)), which also identifies the area or specific workstation that has the problem. The frequency and nature of these occasional issues are analysed as part of Toyota’s programme of continual improvement ([Kaizen](#)).

The Andon cable is part of the Jidoka production system – [read about Jidoka here](#).

[See our full Toyota Production System glossary in this post.](#)



## 7 comments

**Ian Robson**

15 July 2021 at 6:36 pm

In this article, it states:

“Every Toyota member is viewed as an expert in their field and each and every one is permitted to stop the production line if they spot something they perceive to be a threat to vehicle quality – and they do so by using the Andon cable.”

Yet elsewhere on the web it says:

misconception which is cleared up within the “Andon” section of the Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky website:

“Now, the line will not stop each time the Andon cord is pulled. The Andon System is not a line stop, it is more of an alert system. The only time the line will stop is if the Team Leader answering the call is unable to solve the problem within the Team member’s takt time.”

Which description is correct please?

Thank you

Ian Robson

Reply

**ToyotaUK**

16 July 2021 at 5:15 pm

Hi Ian,

Thanks for getting in touch.

Essentially both are correct. By pulling the Andon cord it alerts the team leader that there



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THANKS.

Reply



**Mayra**

30 October 2024 at 9:52 pm

I've tried reaching out



**Jacqueline**

13 May 2022 at 7:02 pm

I think the article means "cord" not "chord" as in music.

Reply



**Mark Forkun**

18 June 2022 at 9:30 am

Could I also chip in and add, that I was taught by my sensei the following definition of Andon is as follows;

The purpose of Andon is to ensure that the built in quality of the process is maintained in accordance with the cycle time. Hence, Q – Quality and D – Delivery for the customer (in this case the next process)

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Thxcc For This Concept

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**faisle**

9 December 2024 at 12:24 pm

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