

Function.

The basic purpose of each expenditure, whether it be for hardware, for the work of a group of men, for a procedure, or for whatever, is to accomplish a function. It is necessary to establish the language of function and stay within the language of function.

Groups of Functions.

Since important projects for the accomplishment of one vital function or a few very important functions are achieved by the accomplishment of dozens or hundreds of sub-functions, means must be provided for logically grouping functions. Language for dealing with them and methods for creatively establishing better approaches are required.

Evaluation of Function.

Since the purpose of Value Engineering is to achieve the total function for lowest over-all cost, effective measures of the value of function are necessary. Extensive techniques are provided for evaluating functions by comparison. This evaluation must not be made by comparing to the past. These values are established by other valid comparisons and are then used as a guide to the achievement of the individual function or the groups of functions for that value or cost.

Types of Functions.

In the search for basic objective thinking, the functions are divided into type. There are two types. Either or both may cause the buyer or the user to buy this product. One type is the Use function, the other is the Aesthetic function. Each is important. Any cost other than to provide the amount of each of these two functions which the user or buyer wants is unnecessary cost.

Use Function.

The cost which is expended to cause the product to perform a use which the buyer wants and wants to pay for is called the use function.

Aesthetic Function.

The elements of cost which are for the purpose of pleasing the buyer through color or shape of feature, causing him to buy, are typed as aesthetic function.

Basic Function.

Basic function is that function for which the user or buyer buys the product.

Second Degree Functions.

Second degree functions are those functions which become necessary in order to cause the designer's choice for means of accomplishing the basic function to do so effectively. As is readily seen the customer is extremely interested in the basic function. He does not care about the second degree function. Large amounts of cost are contained in second degree functions and become the immediate target for high grade Value Engineering work.