Minute QI: The 2-bin Kanban system for stock control.

A two-bin Kanban system is a simple and effective method for managing inventory, particularly in situations where there's a need for frequent replenishment and a desire to minimize stockouts. Here's how it works and how it could help with your stock control problem:

1. Setup:
   - Divide your inventory of items into two bins (or containers) for each item you want to manage.
   - Bin 1: Active inventory or the stock currently being used.
   - Bin 2: Reserve inventory or the backup stock to be used when Bin 1 is empty.

2. Establish Reorder Points:
   - Determine a reorder point for each item, which is the minimum quantity of the item that should be in Bin 1 before it triggers a reorder.
   - When the quantity of an item in Bin 1 falls below the reorder point, it's time to replenish that item.

3. Visual Signals (Kanban Cards):
   - Attach a Kanban card to each bin (or container) in Bin 1.
   - When an item is taken from Bin 1 for use, the Kanban card is placed in a designated area, signaling that the item needs to be reordered.
   - The presence of the Kanban card serves as a visual indicator that replenishment is needed.

4. Replenishment:
   - When the Kanban card is retrieved, it serves as an authorization to reorder the item.
   - Replenish the item in Bin 1 from the stock in Bin 2.
   - Restock Bin 2 to its predetermined quantity, ensuring that there is always a backup supply available.

5. Continuous Monitoring and Improvement:
   - Regularly review the inventory levels and adjust reorder points as needed based on usage patterns and lead times.
   - Analyze the frequency of stockouts and adjust inventory levels or reorder points accordingly.
   - Continuously optimize the system to reduce waste, minimize stockouts, and improve efficiency.

By implementing a two-bin Kanban system, you can streamline your stock control process, improve visibility of inventory levels, and ensure that you have the right amount of stock on hand to meet demand without excessive overstocking or frequent stockouts. It's a straightforward yet powerful method for maintaining inventory control and optimizing inventory levels.