

Products

Standard, repeat, high-volume, mass products. Examples include motor vehicles and domestic appliances. Not widely found in manufacturing today, as the required volumes to justify the investment are not typical of current markets

Process

Products are separated into different operations. These are met by a series of sequential processes through which all items in a selected range pass. To the process, all the products are the same and, therefore, the line does not have to be stopped and reset to accommodate a change in requirement. However, the line can only cope with the predetermined range for which the process has been designed. To widen the existing range would require additional investment

SOURCE: Hill, T. (2005) *Operations Management*, 2nd edn, Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan

EXHIBIT 5.8 Line: key characteristics