

PROSPECTS FOR IMPLEMENTING LAST PLANNER IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents, from a lean construction perspective, the results of a national study about production planning, involving building companies in Sweden. Collection of information includes field studies, an electronical survey and interviews with project managers and site managers. As a result of gathered information, common means regarding planning projects is being presented, as well as a compilation of the planners' requirements and desideratums. Lean construction is discussed in the relation to results showing that the respondents were unfamiliar with theories about planning e.g. the Last Planner system.

Many of the approached respondents in the study are of the opinion that their planning knowledge is insufficient and that they are in need of education in order to improve their planning ability, resulting in more profitable projects. Also, the study shows a desire to involve more people in the planning activities, such as physical workers and subcontractors. The will to improve the planning process in combination with a desire to involve more personnel are distinctive conditions to raise the industries knowledge about Last Planner.

KEY WORDS

Production planning, Last Planner, survey, interviews, Sweden, subcontractors, physical workers.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to illustrate the level of standard for the planning abilities in the Swedish construction industry. In order to show how well the construction industry actually performs, information has been gathered from construction sites around the country. The information is used to clarify the conditions for implementing the Last Planner system in the Swedish construction industry.

There are a numbers of different techniques that can be used when planning a project, e.g. the Last Planner system. This planning technique has been around for

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