

More thorough production control

Veli-Antti Husso is Hartela Contractors' site manager at Hiidenkivi Elementary School, Helsinki. Although the construction work has progressed well, and the school for 850 pupils is ahead of schedule, he is looking slightly worried. The reason for worry becomes soon clear. Today, the PPC graph generated by the use of the Last Planner method shows, after recent increases, a decline. The graph describes how the tasks of the weekly plan have been realized on site.

"There is an obvious dip in the graph, and the reason for it is clear. There has been a regular gang working on the site but now new operatives have arrived, and this is readily visible in the performance of the site", Veli-Antti Husso frets over the matter.

Last Planner has been used for production control on the Hiidenkivi school site since it started last February. Hartela was one of the companies participating last year in an experiment, where the new production control model was tested in practice. Now, Husso wants to continue the use of Last Planner on his sites. The goal is to get the PPC figure to stay over 80 %. According to him, the benefits of Last Planner are plain to see on the Hiidenkivi site.

"On the previous site, drawings tended to arrive somewhat behind time. On this site, we monitor continuously that drawings arrive in time. Likewise, the work which needs to be carried out before following operations can start is always checked", Veli-Antti Husso tells about the use of Last Planner. "What remains to decrease the PPC figure are human factors, absences and illnesses."

"Even earlier I required that weekly plans be made for the next three weeks. In Last Planner, the size of the gang and efficiency become more visible", Husso says.

The work itself has not changed, but, according to Husso, the use of Last Planner has brought a new enthusiasm for managing work. Husso has three foremen to assist him. Together with them, he checks every week the realization of planned tasks by means of the Last Planner method.

"When one has to observe the schedule and the realization of one's own tasks weekly, the work gets done more thoroughly and one addresses many issues that otherwise might not have been considered", Veli-Antti Husso says.

It took some time for Veli-Antti Husso to get used to Last Planner. Subsequently, he has noticed that it has also taken his foremen a while to become familiar with it. However, he is certain that initial efforts more than payoff. This is because, in Husso's opinion, afterwards Last Planner not only facilitates one's own work, but especially improves the productivity on site.

Photo text: "On site rounds it is easy to check by means of Last Planner whether, or not, the planned tasks have been carried out", Veli-Antti Husso says. This production control model has been in use on the site for Hiidenkivi Elementary School, Helsinki, since its start. The handover will be next June.

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