

How to use CLIP

The Construction Lean Improvement Programme

Lean is about improved quality, reduced costs and shorter project programmes. Businesses in construction are increasingly “going lean” to keep ahead of the competition, to win more business, and to be more profitable. Lean is not just a set of tools, but is more a state of mind focussed on improving the way work is carried out, and understood by all in the company or project team. The good news is that you can do it without major financial investment, restructuring your business, new technology, or recruiting new staff.

CLIP was created to help you benefit from lean. This is so important that the DTI has agreed to subsidise the fees paid by firms who use the programme. For construction, CLIP is the only route to lean endorsed in this way by the DTI. CLIP is provided by BRE, the construction industry’s premier independent source of advice, consultancy, research, and testing.

How much improvement can I expect?

CLIP companies have gained up to 40% better productivity in targeted areas, lead times reduced by 50% on key project stages, and defect rates reduced by 65%. One company saved £220,000 on an activity costing £785,000

For more information www.bre.co.uk and use Search to find CLIP

To get the best out of CLIP you need to decide first where to focus the improvement. We use four broad strategies (see box right) that can improve specific construction projects, or manufacturing operations, or company-wide processes such as procurement or design. Often we work on live projects because the benefits are obvious, making explaining what’s happening to others easy.

Ask for a visit from one of the CLIP team to assess your needs (this is free – contact details at the bottom of the page). They will work with you to select the best approach and how to involve your key people. We can then agree the specific improvement activity for you – a tailored programme with clear goals, timescales, scope, costs, level of staff

commitment and a defined end point. In parallel with this we may suggest some experience sharing sessions to spread the benefits across your organisation.

CLIP then provides an experienced facilitator who works with your team making practical improvements and training them by example. It is not consultancy, nor traditional class room learning – results are immediate and directly relate to need – nor is it about trimming everything to the bone and squeezing more out of what’s left!

Four improvement strategies

- **Process Masterclass.** Applies detailed lean tools to project or company processes
- **Lean relationships.** Improves the way sub-contractors work for you, planning and measuring delivery according to lean principles
- **Teamworking and communication.** The personal contribution to business improvement .
- **Strategy and leadership.** Shows your leaders how to deploy lean throughout the business.

The spirit of CLIP is to challenge fixed ideas, and to make changes immediately – this way people learn best and will retain their new skills so that they can use them again and again.



To organise a free initial consultation contact CLIP on 01923 664638