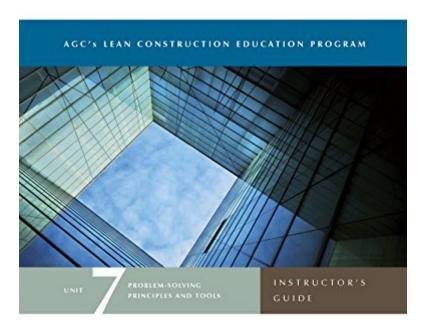
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# Lean Construction Education Program Unit 7: Problem-Solving Principles And Tools- Instructor's Guide









# Synopsis

WELCOME TO UNIT 7: PROBLEM-SOLVING PRINCIPLES AND TOOLSLean Construction is driven to minimize costs and maximize value on each project completed, challenging allstakeholders to develop and apply better ways to manage the overall construction process. Everyone related to the construction process has incentives to get the project done faster and at a lower cost â " from the projectowners who want to see tangible results for their investment to designers and contractors who want to do theirjob well and move on to the next project. Throughout the construction process â " planning, design, construction, activation, operations, maintenance, salvaging and recycling â " the holistic pursuit of continuous improvement drives more efficient, effective andeconomic projects. On a corporate level, lean is most effective when embraced by all areas of the company. To do so, seniormanagement must understand the need for and advantages of lean implementation. However, lean is also anindividual journey. All project team members must work together on a daily basis, incorporating lean principlesinto their most basic work, to see the true benefits of lean. This course is just one part of the foundation that is available to help participants reach these goals. Up to this point, the courses within the Lean Construction Education Program (LCEP) have been focused on variation inherent to workflow, the value of pull production and effective structuring, planning of thoseactivities on the project site, elimination and maximizing value in the supply chain and applying lean principlesto design and pre-construction. With Unit 7: Problem-solving Principles and Tools, we will look at the construction problem-solving principles and tools, the role of teamwork in problem solving, clearly defining problems, a structured approach to problem solving, tools useful for problem solving and use of the A3 forsolving construction problems. The course is divided into three sessions: Session 1 introduces the difference between traditional and lean problem solving, creation of a team approach, and the use of observation walks to discover the facts affecting a problem. Session 2 introduces the importance of carefully defining problems, the 5 Whys and the Plan-Do-Check-Actcycle. Session 3 presents several tools for use in solving problems and an extended activity to complete an A3 forproblems participants bring from their workplace to class.

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