On the way to a reference model for supply chains in the construction industry

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Abstract

The construction industry is a project based industry with many particularities that differ in regions, projects and/or cultures. The fact that there are many actors involved at different levels in the construction process, with low quality information exchange caused by restricted use of communication channels, makes it inefficient. In this paper we examine the literature on supply chain reference models for the construction industry. The search demonstrates that there are no universally accepted reference models for the construction supply chain. The lack of findings is probably due to the small amount of research on supply chain management in construction when compared to manufacturing. In order to cover this gap, we propose the adoption of the Supply Chain REMEDY reference model for the project based construction industry. We believe that the efforts construction companies make towards customer delight, one of their basic objectives in every project, could be supported by the existence of a reference model that takes into consideration the particularities of the sector. In the first stage, a generic reference model for the construction industry will be developed, tested and informed. In the second stage, partial models will be developed for groups of construction projects described in the paper. The article presents a brief literature review, followed by the presentation of the current literature on reference models in the literature and the construction industry literature. Conclusions make the final part of the paper.

Keywords: Construction, Supply chain management, Reference model, Supply chain remedy, Construction supply chains