

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY INITIATIVE

The Logistics Business focuses on McDonald's Restaurants

- Top of the Logistics League with a 75% Reduction in Construction Time

The Egan Report focussing on the construction industry has identified five key areas for improvement, one of which is effective supply chain management. This Government backed initiative has prompted premier consultancy The Logistics Business to provide suggested improvements to the already advanced practices of McDonald's restaurants.

Having seen on site construction time fall by as much as 75%, in part through the use of pre-fabricated buildings, McDonald's are already recognised as leading the field of construction logistics.

McDonald's project manager Jamie Barraclough confirms: "Originally on site time would have typically been 16 to 20 weeks, we have now dramatically reduced this to approximately five weeks. Procurement, deliveries to site, on site logistics and construction are just some of the areas where significant improvements have been made."

Barraclough comments: “There are several areas we are looking at, including building manufacture and furniture. We are constantly looking at better procurement, for instance, Meister Controls supply us with a complete electrical package for each restaurant pre-cut to length labelled and delivered to site when we need it. Benefits of this system are twofold – time on site has been greatly reduced and there is literally no materials wastage.”

Rick Ballard, Director at The Logistics Business, now recognised as a major authority on logistics in the sector, believes that the rest of the construction industry could learn a thing or two from this Egan-style approach to supply chain management. Ballard comments: “McDonald’s have adopted a forward thinking approach to logistics that has traditionally only been pioneered in retail and manufacturing. There is a great opportunity here for the construction industry to benefit from best practice.”

There are however encouraging signs that recognition is growing within the sector: “We have started to get more and more enquiries from construction firms. The supply and delivery of materials to site is at last being recognised as an area that can bring significant sustainable benefits.”

Good logistics means getting the right product to the right place at the right time as efficiently as possible and it is about to become a skill that construction companies have to acquire in order to stay competitive within the market place.”