

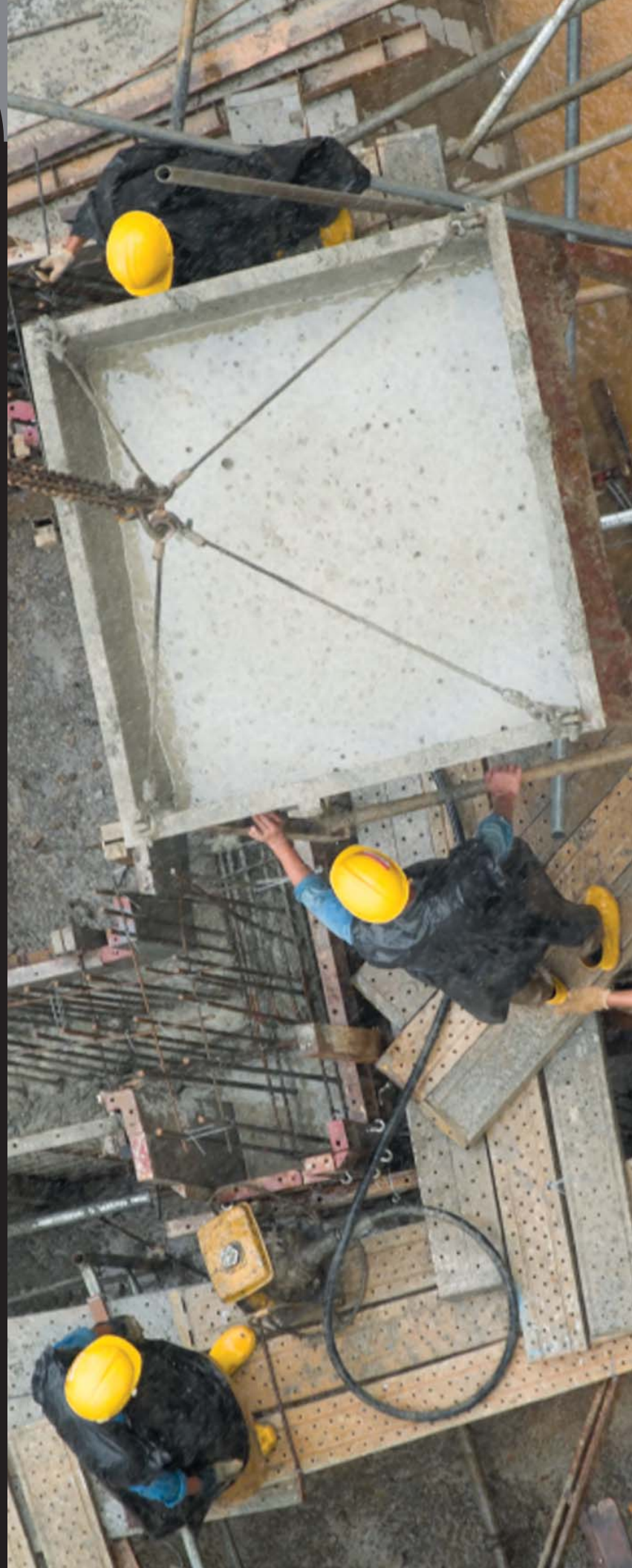
When It Comes To
Building Products,
We Can Help
Strengthen Your
Foundation

USC Consulting Group:

An experienced professional resource

for mid- to large-scale

manufacturers of all types



building products

Building Products

Experience

USCCG is very experienced in the building products industry. We've helped many well-known and highly regarded companies to:

- Achieve warehousing and logistics cost reductions
- Eliminate waste
- Increase labor productivity
- Improve capacity
- Improve maintenance
- Improve real-time data reporting
- Improve shop floor scheduling
- Improve quality
- Improve yields
- Improve utilization of existing facilities and technology
- Reduce back orders
- Reduce overtime
- Reduce cycle time
- Reduce inventory (raw, WIP, finished goods)
- Reduce sourcing and procurement costs
- Speed up clean-outs, changeovers, and start-ups

Processes Worked

- Automated and manual assembly
- CNC machining
- Injection molding
- Maintenance
- Milling
- Order entry
- Plating
- Staining and coating
- Stamping and punch presses
- Supplier certification
- Warehouse and order fulfillment

Totally Customized Approach

Our approach is totally customized for each client and situation but will typically include some or all of the following components and/or methodologies:

- Cycle time improvement
- Inventory and physical asset management
- Line balancing (equipment, resources)
- Maintenance, engineering, and indirect support effectiveness
- Management/supervisory effectiveness

- Problem identification and resolution
- Process/equipment control and calibration
- Process mapping and optimization
- Resource and demand planning
- Sales and operations planning
- Statistical process control
- Structure and decision making
- Visual management techniques

Client Benefits

These tools and techniques enable us to deliver a wide range of benefits to our clients.

1. Lower operating costs
2. Improved delivery
3. Reduced scrap and rework
4. Lower inventory investment
5. Improved ROIC
6. Fewer mistakes
7. Better reputation
8. Higher share of market
9. Purchasing economies of scale
10. Reduced freight-forwarding costs



Our Work

Let's take a look at some of our work with building products manufacturers. Each of the following solutions was totally customized and implemented by USCCG professionals using proprietary techniques and methodologies to meet the unique needs of individual clients. Here are some highlights from three real engagements.

Case History # 1

Cement producer wanted to improve use of computerized maintenance management system (CMMS)

Our Assignment: Improve the use of existing CMMS (SAP PM) to allow for better mechanical history information input and retrieval

Our Approach:

1. Conducted a two-week feasibility study across multiple facilities to identify and quantify the benefits of improved maintenance execution and enhanced CMMS utilization
2. Developed an approach for a pilot project at a single facility and the methodology to roll out the enhanced processes and tools to the remaining division facilities
3. Performed value stream mapping to identify and eliminate or minimize nonvalue-added activities and processes
4. Improved SAP PM interface
5. Enhanced warranty tracking, support area coordination, and servicing/maintenance shop floor execution
6. Developed and implemented better management practices, shop floor control mechanisms, and metrics

The Results:

1. Reduced PM mechanics' access time by 70%
2. Improved on-time equipment releases 14-18%
3. Client saved \$3 million

Case History # 2

Manufacturer of component hardware for the building products trade wanted to reduce scrap and improve quality

Our Assignment: Reduce scrap and improve quality

Our Approach:

1. Conducted two-week feasibility study to identify and quantify opportunities for improvement
2. Implemented system of shop floor controls to improve accountability and raise expectations on production floor
3. Improved first-time quality in casting department by developing SOP for zinc re-melts
4. Instituted inspection system to weed out rejects prior to high cost nickel plating process
5. Reduced inventory of finished goods by implementing minimum and maximum stocking quantities
6. Provided scheduling system to properly sequence production runs
7. Instituted CIP to provide systematic approach to addressing key operational issues

The Results:

1. Reduced scrap by 34%
2. Reduced total cost of quality by 21%
3. Client saved \$600,000 annually

Case History # 3

Manufacturer of wood and gas fireplace hearth systems wanted to integrate its scheduling processes to improve productivity and on-time and complete deliveries

Our Assignment: Improve operational performance by upgrading the current management operating system, management behaviors, and the physical environment

Our Approach:

1. Assessed overall effectiveness of the existing management operating system
2. Installed planning tool to drive crewing guides used by floor managers and supervisors
3. Linked sales dollar forecasts to required daily volumes, labor hours, headcount, and estimated labor, as a percent of sales
4. Installed visual management tools across the facility
5. Institutionalized daily schedule review of attainment, on-time performance, and performance opportunities.
6. Made significant improvements to all aspects of the current management operating system tools and disciplines

The Results:

1. Reduced direct labor as a % of sales 7-13%
2. Reduced outbound freight costs 15-25%
3. Reduced scrap 35-45%
4. Reduced shop supplies 25-35%
5. Reduced inventory 15-20%
6. Client saved \$1.7 million within the first year

These results are fairly typical of what we've been able to accomplish in the building products field. You can review other case histories by visiting our web site at www.usccg.com.

For more information contact us at (800) 888-8872 or www.usccg.com.



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