

Expediting

Expediting is a project-management activity implemented as part of the procurement process in order to secure the quality and timely delivery of goods and components. The expeditor monitors and controls the progress of manufacturing at the supplier's plant with a view to ensuring that the required goods arrive at the agreed location, to the agreed quality and to the agreed contractual delivery date. Expediting normally takes place face-to-face with the manufacturer or the manufacturer's sub-supplier, however, some 'desk expediting' can be carried out by telephone between visits.



THE Applus+ SOLUTION

Applus+ provides a proactive and cost-effective expediting service through our extensive network of experienced field expeditors strategically located close to major manufacturing locations throughout the world. Our expeditors are skilled in production planning and manufacturing processes for all major industrial disciplines and equipment, and they are able to work with the manufacturer to identify delays and potential problems with a view to maintaining schedules and, if required, initiating remedial action to get production activities back on schedule.

Our experienced expeditors not only follow the progress of an order and ensure that all possibilities are considered with a view to improving the proposed delivery date, but also undertake in-depth trouble-shooting to ensure that required delivery deadlines are respected. This work entails pre-production meetings; establishment of programmes or critical path networks; control of engineering, sub-orders and sub-vendors, manufacturing and testing; submission/approval of dispatch documentation; and order close-out.

At Applus+ we recognise the clear distinction between 'status reporting' and expediting, and our expediting service focuses on minimising the schedule of each phase of production as opposed to simply detailing its current status.

The competency and effectiveness of our expeditors is constantly monitored and assessed in accordance with our quality-management system, thus ensuring the same high level of service all across the globe. Exit calls and flash reporting direct to the client from the manufacturer's premises are mandatory.

Our in-house online management system, AMIS, provides a secure portal enabling clients to track and monitor the progress and to budget and plan all their expediting assignments anywhere in the world in real time.

Target customers

Today, expediting is an integral part of the procurement process. In the past, it was considered a corrective rather than preventive function. However, as both project schedules and pricing have become increasingly critical, expediting is now frequently incorporated into project planning from the outset.

Although expediting is best undertaken as a continuous process from the time at which an order is placed, sometimes it is only considered following a critical delay in the delivery of a particular order.

Depending on the client's requirements, expediting services can be carried out at any stage of a project, including fabrication and assembly, rectification work, material deficit, failure on test or inspection, shipment and packing and submission of documentation.

Key customer benefits

A timely and effective expediting service helps to ensure that:

- Procured equipment is manufactured and delivered on – or ahead of – schedule
- Delays in the supply chain are minimised
- Where a delay has occurred, a contingency plan is immediately put in place to minimise its potential impact on the client
- Cost efficiencies are achieved and, where applicable, penalties are avoided as a result of time savings

Expediting services are of particular benefit when new suppliers are involved in the supply chain, especially in new regions. In such cases, the client benefits greatly from having a trusted, highly-qualified expeditor with valuable local knowledge tracking order progress and ensuring timely delivery.