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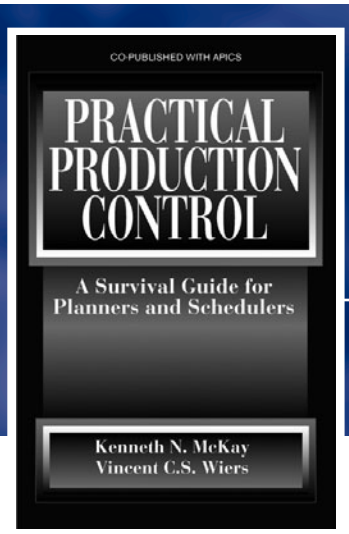

Meet the challenges of real-world production control

Practical Production Control

A Survival Guide for Planners and Schedulers

Kenneth N. McKay and Vincent C.S. Wiers *Co-published with APICS*

Take your production planning to the next level...

Clearly defining the challenges of daily production control, **Practical Production Control: A Survival Guide for Planners and Schedulers** is a soup-to-nuts, practical guide and desk reference that gives you the skill set required to meet today's real-world challenges. It explains how the scheduling task can be decomposed and organized; how the production control department can be structured; how to hire, train, and evaluate schedulers; how scheduling changes with the life cycle of the product and processes within the plant; and how software tools can be used to augment the scheduler's skill.

Most books on this subject describe production control from an idealistic perspective. This book describes real planning and scheduling — what a scheduler needs to think about when he or she gets into the office, when the boss asks for something impossible, and when the information received is not correct. Taking you behind closed doors, into the factory at 6:00 am, behind the scheduler's desk, and into the planning meetings, this book explores how to identify limiting factors for improved production control and provides a number of techniques for taking production control to the next level. While developed primarily for planners and schedulers, most any manufacturing or supply chain professional will gain value from this book.

About the Authors

Kenneth N. McKay is a professor in the Department of Management Sciences, Faculty of Engineering, University of Waterloo. He holds a M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Management Science from Waterloo and is considered a world leader in the study of production control in real factories and understanding what schedulers and planners do. Dr. McKay has conducted interdisciplinary research on the scheduling problems in real factories for 20 years.

Vincent C.S. Wiers is CEO of VCS Consulting in The Netherlands. The firm specializes in supply chain management and in implementing Advanced Planning and Scheduling systems. Mr. Wiers holds a M.Sc. and a Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering and Management Science from the Eindhoven University of Technology.

Key Features

- **Provides assessment tools for determining the extent of a scheduling problem, its stability, and how well scheduling is being performed**
- **Explores methodologies for setting reasonable expectations for scheduling systems use and ways to avoid implementation problems**
- **Demystifies and explains Advanced Planning Systems (APS) and other scheduling systems**
- **Clarifies what production control involves beyond MRP-II, Gantt charts, and other mechanical tools**
- **Provides a list of key messages for quick review by the busy professional at the beginning of each chapter**
- **WAV Offers free downloadable supplements designed to help you assess your production control operations with tips for making improvements — available from the Web Added Value™ Download Resource Center at www.jrosspub.com**

Practical Production Control:
A Survival Guide for Planners and Schedulers

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