SCL PROTOCOL · SECTION 11

The Six Delay Analysis Methods

The Protocol's second edition lists six methods and states that none is preferred for retrospective analysis. Which are open to you is settled by what your programme contains and what records survive, not by which you would rather run. Check this before choosing, because the answer is usually already decided.

	METHOD	THE QUESTION IT ANSWERS	WHAT IT NEEDS	OUTLOOK	WATCH FOR
1	**Impacted as-planned**	What effect would the event have had, assuming everything else went as planned?	A logic-linked baseline programme and the events to model.	**Prospective**	Quick, and the least persuasive. Takes no account of what actually happened.
2	**Time impact analysis**	What was the likely effect of the event, judged from the point it arose?	Baseline, update programmes or progress information to bring it forward, and the events.	**Contemporaneous**	Without genuine updates it collapses into impacted as-planned under another name.
3	**Time slice windows**	What was the actual critical path through the works, and what delayed it?	Baseline plus a run of contemporaneous update programmes across the period.	**Retrospective**	The updates are not supporting evidence here, they are the method.
4	**As-planned v as-built windows**	The same question, built from the as-built record rather than the updates.	Baseline plus as-built data.	**Retrospective**	The practical choice where updates are unreliable but site records are good.
5	**Retrospective longest path**	What was the as-built critical path, viewed from the end, and what delayed it?	Baseline and a credible as-built programme.	**Retrospective**	A reconstruction. Open to a different reconstruction by the other side.
6	**Collapsed as-built**	But for the event, when would completion have been achieved?	A logic-linked as-built programme and the events to remove.	**Retrospective**	Most as-built programmes record dates, not logic, so the input rarely exists.

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Clause 63.5 assesses delay as the movement of planned Completion against the Accepted Programme current at the dividing date. That is a prospective assessment made event by event, so the list above becomes relevant only where the contractual process has already failed: no Accepted Programme, events notified but never assessed, or notification missed and the clause 61.3 clock run out.

Unsure what your records will actually support? Book a 30-minute call about forensic delay analysis.

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