

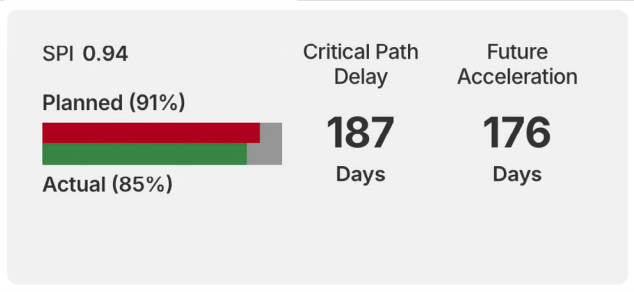


SmartPM's 35-Point Framework vs. the DCMA 14-Point Check

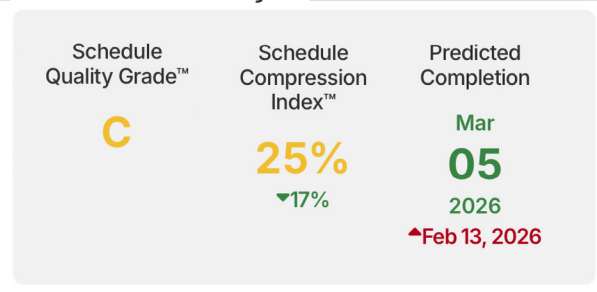
SmartPM's Schedule Quality Grade is built on the DCMA foundation but engineered for today's jobsite, providing a smarter, customizable approach grounded in real-world construction needs. Its 35+ quality metrics go far beyond the original 14-point DCMA check, drawing from years of industry experience and hundreds of customer conversations.

Many of these checks were developed to catch the real issues that most impact project performance—issues that DCMA often misses. Instead of relying on a rigid pass/fail system, SmartPM's framework surfaces meaningful insights that actually move the end date, helping teams focus on what truly drives schedule health and operational outcomes.

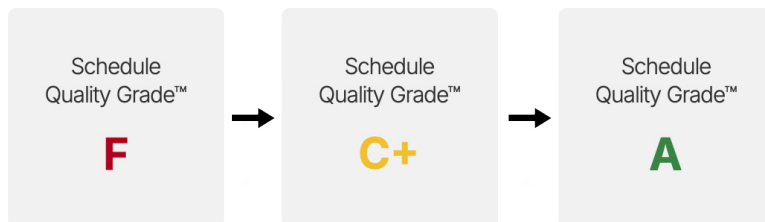
Schedule Performance



Schedule Feasibility



Schedule Quality Checks Were Due for a Redesign



The DCMA 14-point check gave the industry a baseline for “good-enough” schedules, but it was written for Department of Defense contracts, not commercial construction.

Projects today differ wildly in size, complexity, and delivery method. A rigid pass/fail test can raise false alarms on one job and miss real risk on another.

SmartPM's metrics are rooted in the DCMA methodology but expanded to 35 metrics you can weight, score, and even turn on or off to ensure your quality program fits your projects, not the other way around.

A Head to Head Comparison

	DCMA	SmartPM
Number of Quality Metrics	14	35
Created For	Government Contracts	All Construction Project Types
Pass/Fail Scoring	Yes	No
Customization	None	Fully Customizable
Output Style	Compliance-based	Diagnostic & Action-Oriented
Level of Detail	Basic Schedule Health	Includes logic, duration, float, risk
Real-World Usability	Rigid	Practical for ongoing oversight

SmartPM's 35 Quality Metrics: [What We Look At](#)

Here's how we organize and evaluate all 35 metrics, grouped into 4 categories for clarity:

Logic & Relationships

- Missing Logic
- Positive Lag
- Negative Lag
- Total Relationships
- Finish-Start %
- Start-Start %
- Finish-Finish %
- Start-Finish %
- Duplicate Relationships
- Dangling Activities
- Out of Sequence

Float & Critical Path

- Average Activity Total Float
- Low Float Activities
- High float Activities
- Negative Native Float Activities
- Critical Path %

Constraints & Durations

- Constraints
- Hard Constraints
- Soft Constraints
- High Duration Activities
- One Day Activities

Status & Progress Integrity

- Activities Riding Data Date
- Backdated Activities
- Changed Actual Dates
- Missing Actual Finish Dates
- Future Actual Dates
- Unstated Activities
- Started with 0%
- Decreased Percent Complete
- Increased Remaining Duration
- Remaining Duration Discrepancy

A Few Key Quality Metrics

Missing Logic

Every activity except the first and last should have a predecessor and successor. Activities lacking logic don't move the end date when delayed, distorting the real critical path.

Missing Logic



A schedule with a high number of activities that are missing a predecessor and/or successor increases the risk of an erroneous critical path, limits the ability to effectively identify and manage delays and increases the risk of compression.

17 - 35.4 pts 35.4%

Constraints



A high amount of constraints contained in a schedule indicates that there is not enough logical detail in the schedule – making it less reactive when delays occur. This increases the likelihood of an erroneous critical path while limiting the ability to effectively identify and manage delays, increasing the likelihood of compression going unseen.

1

0.1%

Hard Constraints

Hard constraints, especially on the final completion can mask the critical path or show zero float everywhere. This typically leads to no real critical path.

Excessive Float

Usually points to missing logic ties; if an activity has 100+ days of float near the end, it may be incorrectly disconnected from the sequence.

Average Activity Total Float



A high average activity total float indicates the schedule is lacking logic, detail and/or complexity. This increases the risk of an erroneous critical path while limiting the ability to effectively identify and manage delays, increasing the likelihood of compression going unseen leading to an increasing the risk of inefficiencies.

36

Future Actual Dates



Future actual start and finish dates tend to be based on approximations instead of what has actually happened, resulting in a non-responsive plan. (Includes completed activities)

5

3%

Future Actual Dates

Activities marked as though they finished after the current data date are a red flag for data and forecasting accuracy.

Unstated Activities

Activities with no actual start/finish recorded skew the schedule's progress reporting. Confirm each active or completed activity is properly updated.

Unstated Activities



An unstated activity is defined as an incomplete activity where the start/finish date is prior to the data date. The start date may be before the data date if the activity has already started.

55

- 10 pts

46.6%

Changed Actual Dates



Changing actual start and finish dates can result in an erroneous historical critical path and may cause discrepancies in the delay analysis. (Includes completed activities)

634

24.8%

Changed Actual Dates

Repeatedly revising actual start/finish indicates possible data-entry errors or confusion between field updates and schedule updates.

High Duration Activities

Best practices suggest no single activity should exceed roughly 44 working days (~2 months).

Too many high-duration activities can mask delays or distort progress tracking.

High Duration Activities



An increased level of high duration activities indicates the schedule is lacking logic, detail and/or complexity. This increases the risk of an erroneous critical path while limiting the ability to effectively identify and manage delays.

52

- 5 pts

6.5%

One Day Activities



Too many one day activities can be indicative of a schedule with too much detail which can be difficult to manage, these should be reviewed for their validity.

130

19.4%

One-Day Activities

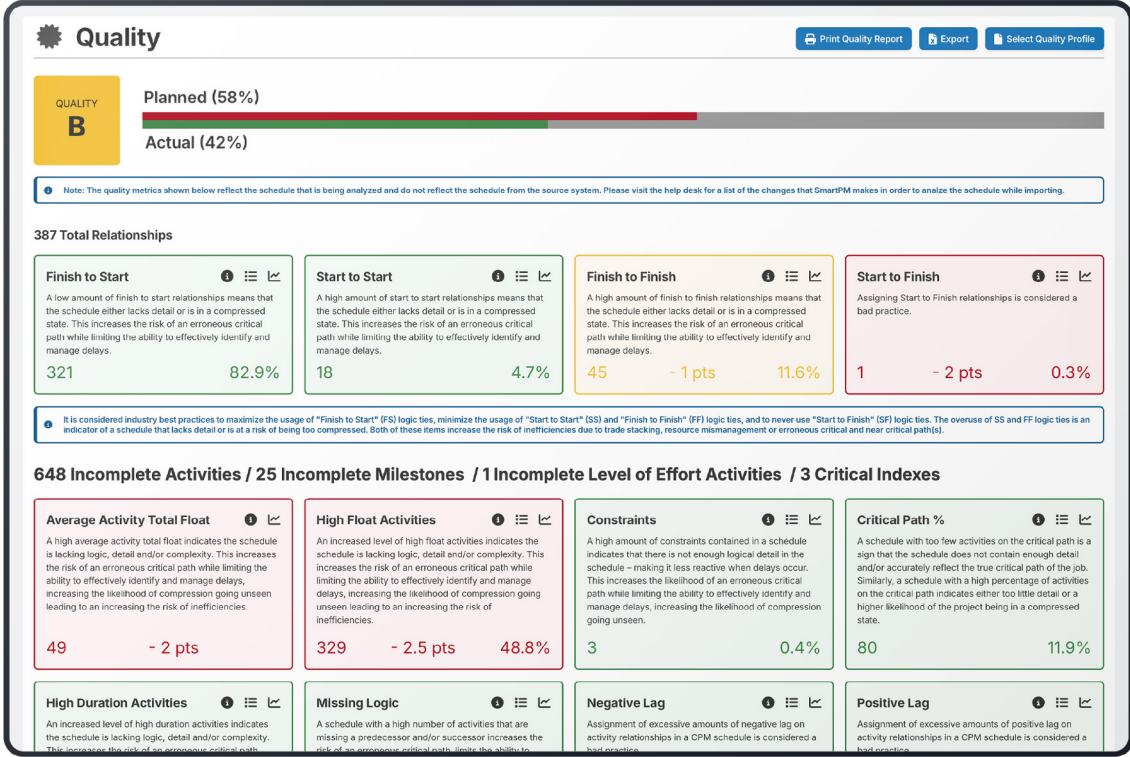
(Typically not tracked) If you see many activities with a 1-day duration, confirm they're truly that short. Too many might indicate the schedule is overly detailed or artificially segmented.

Why Customization Isn't Just a 'Nice to Have'

Every Project is Different. Schedule Quality Checks Should Be Too.

- DCMA's pass/fail might flag false positives or miss real risk.
- SmartPM lets you set thresholds that match your company's expectations, schedule size, and project complexity.
- Tune thresholds for healthcare vs. civil vs. multifamily jobs.
- Stop wasting time on "false red flags" and focus on issues that truly move the needle.
- Track a single Schedule Quality Grade™ over time and prove continuous improvement.

Smarter Quality = Smarter Outcomes



Want to know how your schedule quality stacks up?
We'll walk you through it.

Book a Discovery Call