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SpexNews is Born!

This is the first issue of SpexNews, Digicon's new primary information channel to get industry specification-related topics to you in a regular manner. We intend to publish one of these newsletters each calendar quarter beginning with this issue, to coincide with the publication of a summary of changes to our flagship specification products. In addition, it is our hope to inform our subscribers of industry events or topics such as our MasterFormat 2004 reflection and the announcement of OmniClass 1.0, to name a few.

SpecMacros Updated!

SpecMacros has evolved over the course of a decade or so to be an extremely useful piece of software. Digicon continues to offer SpecMacros at an incredibly low price, in order to entice customers to subscribe to our specification products offered through Spex.ca..

In early 2006, SpecMacros for Word underwent some enhancements, to implement a feature where the macros now remember the last settings you used (so you don't have to retype them between sessions). Also, a footer enhancement was added to allow footers in addition to headers (previously, footers were only an option when the "CSI Format" layout was selected).

More recently, SpecMacros for WordPerfect underwent a rewrite, to bring the user-interface closer to that of the Word version. Also, header settings are remembered while WordPerfect is running, so you don't have to re-type them.

Recent subscribers to SpecMacros for WordPerfect will notice that they may receive warnings that the macros use "outdated" commands. This is a known issue, and is quickly solved by clicking "OK" when it occurs. The message only appears once (for each macro), when the macro is being re-compiled for your version of WordPerfect. After the first run, you won't see the error message again.

SpecSuite 2006-Q2 Update

Sections Updated

This quarter, only Canadian Master Specification (CMS) sections have been affected. One section has been updated, and 26 new sections added to CMS. Almost all sections are civil engineering oriented, but some are relevant to other packages as well.

A summary of sections, and their changes, is listed here:

Spec	Section Number	Section Title	Status
CMS	02 41 15	Hydro-Demolition	Added 2006-04
CMS	03 37 15	Shotcrete - Dry Process - Steel Reinforced	Added 2006-04
CMS	03 62 00	Non-Shrink Grouting	Added 2006-04
CMS	03 64 23	Epoxy Sealant Injection	Added 2006-04
CMS	10 14 53	Traffic Signs	Added 2006-04
CMS	10 14 54	Street Signs	Added 2006-04
CMS	26 42 20	Cathodic Protection – Passive	Added 2006-04
CMS	31 36 25	Stone Filled Gabions	Added 2006-04
CMS	31 37 12	Dumped Rock Rip-Rap	Added 2006-04
CMS	31 51 19	Soil Anchors	Added 2006-04
CMS	32 01 11	Pavement Surface Cleaning	Added 2006-04
CMS	32 01 18	Pavement Crack Repair	Added 2006-04
CMS	32 12 37	Asphalt Pavement Sealing	Added 2006-04
CMS	32 13 12	Concrete Medians, Driveways and Swales	Added 2006-04
CMS	32 13 15	Concrete Sidewalks, Curbs and Gutters	Added 2006-04
CMS	32 15 35	Re-Gravel Roads	Added 2006-04
CMS	32 17 24	Painted Pavement Markings	Added 2006-04
CMS	32 17 26	Thermo-plastic Pavement Markings	Added 2006-04
CMS	33 05 15	Adjustments of Manholes and Catch Basins	Added 2006-04
CMS	33 05 25	Horizontal Directional Drilling	Added 2006-04
CMS	33 11 25	Steel Pipe Watermain	Added 2006-04
CMS	33 34 11	Steel Pipe Force Main	Added 2006-04
CMS	33 42 15	Corrugated Steel Pipe Culverts	Added 2006-04
CMS	33 44 14	PVC Drainage Outlets	Added 2006-04
CMS	33 79 21	Site Grounding - Cathodic Protection	Updated 2006-04
CMS	34 41 15	Vehicle Activated Loop Detectors	Added 2006-04
CMS	34 71 15	Deep W-Beam Guard Rail	Added 2006-04

Affected SpecSuite Packages

Sections updated this quarter affect the following packages:

- CMS Complete
- CMS Architectural (2 sections added)
- CMS Civil Engineering (26 sections added)
- CMS Electrical (2 sections added)
- CMS Landscape (8 sections added)

For details about which sections were added, please visit Spex.ca.

References and Standards

Reference standards in ALL SpecSUITE sections are constantly being monitored and assessed for applicability. The standards processes in Canada are still changing, and standards references are updated where publishing agencies have made changes or additions. This is a steady process of changes that we are all challenged to address.

Digicon maintains an ever-changing database of standards which are cited in all SpecSUITE master specification packages. Each quarter, these standards are checked, and the documents which cite the important changes are updated accordingly. This process ensures that quarterly updates of Digicon's SpecSUITE master specification sections are as up-to-date as we can make them.

Many standards well known to the industry, that are (or were) authored by CGSB have been quietly withdrawn over the past several years - many with no replacement offered. ULC now seem to be aggressively expanding their library of standards, picking up on some of these popular but now withdrawn CGSB standards.

CSA have since expanded their updating of important concrete, masonry, steel and electrical standards such that we are progressively incorporating those standards into our updates as they are released.

Future SpecSuite Updates

Updates for 2006 and Ongoing

This 2006 Second Quarter (April 2006) update includes a large group of civil engineering master specification sections in order to address this fast and growing demand for road construction subject sections.

Impact of CCDC 2

We foresee changes to Divisions 00 and 01 in mid-2006, as soon as the recently revised and forthcoming CCDC 2 (Canadian standard form of contract for stipulated price) is published - but that has not happened as yet. Formal acceptance for this document is now in a voting process.

We are also issuing important technical updates on each of the SpecSUITE family of master specifications during 2006. Those updates primarily include updating standards and content for a wide range of architectural and structural sections in CMS and MiniSPEC.

ProductFormat offered to CSC

Over the years, Digicon has provided consulting to a wide variety of product manufacturing companies, assisting them in organizing their literature, catalogs, CD-ROMs and web sites. During this time, Digicon created a standardized organization for technical information about construction products, which we now call ProductFormat.

The purpose of ProductFormat is to do for product information what SectionFormat does for specification sections; provide a useful, consistent, organization of technical data for the specifier or designer. The ProductFormat concept was documented in the form of an industry standard and offered to CSC for potential adoption and industry promotion.

In early April, 2006, the CSC Technical Committee reviewed ProductFormat. The initial reaction was favourable, and it is expected that CSC will make a few amendments and adopt the standard before the end of the year. We'll keep you informed about the progress.

MasterFormat 2004 Adoption – A Reflection from 2005

The conversion of numbers and titles for all our SpecSUITE specifications was accomplished in January 2005. The 2004 Edition of MasterFormat (the standard list of specification numbers and titles) was developed involving all

sectors of the construction industry in Canada and the USA. Feedback from subscribers tells us that most all the players in our Canadian construction industry have “bought in” to this significant change. We will offer more insight as to the rationale for these changes in another edition of this newsletter.

Omniclass Edition 1.0 Published

Digicon has participated, along with a number of other construction industry professionals, to create *OmniClass*:

- *OmniClass 2006 Edition 1.0* is a new classification system that addresses the "entire" construction process from a bright idea for a facility to its eventual demolition.
- In short, *OmniClass* contains fifteen classification tables, containing a wide range of subjects, fourteen of which have never been seen in our industry before. This very special document was developed over a period of about six (6) years, by long-standing and experienced industry professionals, from many disciplines across North America.
- *OmniClass 2006*: A new classification approach that will include **ALL** subjects of importance to the whole construction industry, subjects above and well beyond the limited scope of MasterFormat 2004.
- This new document is available as a free download from the Canadian *OmniClass* web site:
<http://www.omniclass.ca>.

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