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NMS Update – New 8-Digit Numbers

With the April 2007 quarterly update, the NMS Secretariat has decided to adopt the use of 8-digit numbers in its NMS specification system. The new section numbers are cited within the sections as “## ## ##.##”, where the fourth pair of numbers are separated from the rest by a period. This decision means that the numbering of NMS sections will now adhere more closely to the MasterFormat 2004 standard. This development is a reversal of a decision made in January 2005 to standardize on 6-digit numbers only, and results in a total of 519 sections being renumbered or updated in the April 2007 update.

In addition to adopting the 8-digit numbers published in the MF04 standard, the NMS has also adopted the optional user-defined (.01, .02, etc.) appended numbering of sections in cases where multiple sections would otherwise share the same number.

Fortunately, this change will not impact the NMS as greatly as it would have a few years ago. Sometime last year, the NMS Secretariat decided to remove section numbers from the “Related Sections” article in the NMS. The impetus behind this decision is that users were not properly editing this article to suit the project, and if missing or incorrect section numbers were used in a project, they could potentially cause legal problems. Users must now insert appropriate references on a project-by-project basis.

For more information about the NMS update, refer to the NMS 2007-Q2 Update Summary available for download on the Spex.ca web site.

SpecMacros Upgraded to Accommodate 8-digits

With this NMS adopting 8-digit section numbers beginning with this quarter’s update files, Digicon’s flagship SpecMacros software needed to be updated to handle the new numbers. SpecMacros users must update to SpecMacros 2007d (available now) in order to work with the new NMS files.

SpecSuite 2007-Q2 Update (April)

CMS, MiniSPEC and OutlineSPEC Sections

In this calendar quarter, we have added or updated sections from Digicon's Canadian Master Specification (CMS), MiniSPEC (MS) and OutlineSPEC (OS). This update addresses various technical and standards updates. Several of our subscribers advised us of subject sections that might be added to the packages - and we are responding to that concern.

ALL CURRENT CMS, MiniSPEC and OutlineSPEC SUBSCRIBERS: Log in to SPEX.CA, sign-in using your account (name/password) and download your updated master specification sections.

Sections Updated This Quarter

Updates this quarter include sections in CMS, MiniSPEC and OutlineSPEC sections. The following is a summary of specific sections – as listed below:

Spec	Section Number	Section Title	Discipline* Packages	Status
CMS	00 41 13	Bid Form - Stipulated Price	All	Update
CMS	00 41 33	Bid Form - Cost Plus	All	Update
CMS	00 41 43	Bid Form - Unit Price	All	Update
CMS	00 52 13	Agreement and Definitions - Stipulated Price	All	Update
CMS	00 52 33	Agreement and Definitions - Cost Plus	All	New
CMS	00 52 43	Agreement and Definitions - Unit Price	All	New
CMS	00 72 13	General Conditions - Stipulated Price	All	Update
CMS	00 72 33	General Conditions - Cost Plus	All	New
CMS	00 72 43	General Conditions - Unit Price	All	New
CMS	00 73 03	Supplementary Conditions - Stipulated Price	All	Update
CMS	00 73 06	Supplementary Conditions - Cost Plus	All	New
CMS	00 73 09	Supplementary Conditions - Unit Price	All	New
CMS	05 03 51	Ornamental Metal Restoration	L	New
CMS	05 12 00	Structural Steel	A,S,L	Update
CMS	05 21 00	Steel Joist Framing	A,S,L	Update
CMS	05 31 13	Steel Floor Decking	A,S,L	Update
CMS	05 31 23	Steel Roof Decking	A,S,R	Update
CMS	07 50 05	Preparation for Re-Roofing	A,R	Update
CMS	08 33 23	Overhead Coiling Doors	A	Update

Spec	Section Number	Section Title	Discipline* Packages	Status
CMS	08 44 23	Glass Curtain Wall - Planar Glass Supports	A	New
CMS	08 71 00	Door Hardware - Common Requirements	A,H,I	Update
CMS	32 01 11	Pavement Surface Cleaning	C	Update
CMS	32 01 14	Pavement Routing and Crack Sealing	C	New
CMS	32 01 18	Pavement Crack Repair	C	Update
CMS	32 17 24	Painted Pavement Markings	C,L	Update
MS	05 12 10	Structural Steel	A	Update
MS	05 21 10	Steel Joist Framing	A	Update
MS	05 31 00	Steel Decking	A	Update
MS	08 71 10	Door Hardware - General	A	Update
OS	05 03 50	Metal Restoration	--	Update
OS	05 10 50	Structural Metal framing	--	Update
OS	05 50 50	Metal Accessories	--	Update

* Discipline package codes: A = Architectural, C = Civil Engineering, E = Electrical, H = Heritage, I = Interiors, L = Landscape, M = Mechanical, R=Roofing/Waterproofing, S=Structural

BrandedSPEC - Quality Proprietary Specifications!

Digicon is building a database of proprietary master specifications fully compatible with our generic offerings, and best of all ... it's **FREE** to users (check out the first BrandedSPEC files at our [BrandedSPEC Page](#) online!

BrandedSPEC is a compilation of branded (proprietary) master specifications that have been specially written to specify a particular manufactured product. The cost of development and maintenance of BrandedSPEC sections is borne by the manufacturers themselves, and offered to the construction industry **FREE** – that means no cost.

The BrandedSPEC offering is a better solution than existing specifications offered by manufacturers themselves (or those offered by popular internet portals), because the file organization (MasterFormat 2004), specification grammar, and automated text formatting will be 100% compatible with the existing Digicon editing software options. In addition, Digicon will be enforcing our high quality standards for text content before they are offered to the public.

Digicon plans to encourage product manufacturers to develop CSC endorsed **ProductFormat** documents for their individual products, which enable specifiers to accurately specify their products for a project using the matching BrandedSPEC documents. Manufacturers should contact Digicon at sales@spex.ca or phone us if they wish to participate in the BrandedSPEC program.

Specnique News

Sometime during the week of April 16, Specnique will be updated to include support for 8-digit NMS specifications. Specnique subscribers who use NMS databases will be required to upgrade before the updated NMS can be used. Please check the Spex.ca web site for Specnique 2007, and install the Specnique Update software found on the "Demo Software" page.

Digicon travelled to Norway in early March, to meet with the Specnique developers about its future. Specnique's developer, Norconsult, has agreed to work with Digicon to upgrade Specnique's capabilities to work with building models in order to streamline the specification development of BIM projects. As we reported earlier, our Specnique developers are already using operational software (Calculus) on pilot BIM projects in Norway.

One of Digicon's first priorities is to migrate its master specification text into a more BIM-friendly format; a process which has already begun. Stay tuned for more updates on these developments.

On the sales front, Digicon will now be offering free education copies of Specnique (along with CMS and NMS) to accredited learning institutions. It is hoped that with students learning to use the software and our master specifications, and with Specnique's anticipated movement to BIM compatibility, future design professionals will already be up to speed on Specnique.

Model Information Modeling (BIM) News

This column will be carried forward into the future, and contain news about the adoption of BIM in Canada, about advances in buildingSMART BIM standards, and most importantly about advising you, our subscribers, about Digicon's migration into the BIM world with our specification products.

Our informal research has revealed that many design offices in Canada are already using Autodesk Revit software, or are planning to adopt it. The adoption of modelling for building design is a great thing, but there are other modelling tools in the marketplace besides Revit. The buildingSMART organization are presently "certifying" modelling software that comply with its IFC model exchange standard. Currently, the following vendors have applied for (and I believe close to) certification. These vendors and their software currently include:

- Archimem Group
 - [Active3D](#)
- [Autodesk](#)
 - AutoCAD Architecture
 - Revit Architecture
- [Bentley](#)
 - Bentley Architecture
- [DDS](#)
 - DDS-CAD Building Service
- [Nemetschek](#)
 - Allplan
 - Graphisoft ArchiCAD
- [Progman](#)
 - MagiCAD
- [Solibri](#)
 - Solibri Model Checker
- [TEKLA](#)
 - Tekla Structures

There are a variety of other software programs that are compatible with the buildingSMART format, but have not applied for certification.

Some vendors are making free modelling software available, usually with a more advanced version sold for a fee. One of the free modelling software programs available is SketchUp, now owned by Google. SketchUp has limitations, but is a great way to “get your feet wet” without having to purchase expensive modelling software to try out the technology. SketchUp has successfully loaded IFC files exported from other software, during the few tests that we have tried. DDS also offer a free version, as well as a Pro version with additional features. You can even try out Autodesk Revit, as they offer a “trial” period that you can download; after the software expires, it continues to be fully functional but the “save” capability is disabled.

IFD Library Developments

The IFD Library (International Foundation for Dictionaries) is a multilingual collection of building construction terms, designed to be compatible with the buildingSMART (BIM) standards being developed internationally.

CSC (representing Canada, attended by David Watson of Digicon and Mary Friesen of Specwrite) and CSI (representing USA) met with the other IFD partners in Ede, The Netherlands in early March. The primary purpose of the meeting was a business and technical development workshop to bring IFD Library to the industry.

The primary purpose of IFD Library is to provide common terminology that can be used to exchange buildingSMART building models independent of the applications and languages used to develop them.

For more information, review the IFD Library web site (<http://www.ifd-library.com>).

Relevant URL Links

This section will not evolve into a network of links everywhere, but will serve to link readers to topics which are included in our newsletter and activities that impact our industry.

- BrandedSPEC (<https://secure.spex.ca/index.php?page=branded/index.php>)
- CCDC Documents: (<http://www.ccdc.org/home.html>)
- Construction Specifications Canada (<http://www.csc-dcc.ca>)
- Construction Specifications Institute (<http://www.csinet.org>)
- Digicon Information Inc. (<http://www.digicon.ab.ca>)
- IFD Library (<http://www.ifd-library.com>)
- International Alliance for Interoperability (IAI) (<http://www.iai-international.org>)
- MasterFormat 2004 (free downloadable PDF on Spex.ca Free page): (<https://secure.spex.ca/index.php?page=freedocs/index.php>)
- OmniClass (<http://www.omniclass.ca> and <http://www.omniclass.org>)
- Spex.ca (<http://www.spex.ca>)

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