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## A Strategic Alliance With ARCOM (USA)

Digicon is pleased to announce that we have recently formed a business alliance with ARCOM, who are the sole publisher in the USA for the the American Institute of Architects (AIA) MASTERSPEC master specification. ARCOM develop and maintain the MASTERSPEC content, as well as develop related software tools and supplementary publications.

Digicon and ARCOM have enjoyed a friendly relationship for many years. Whereas Digicon are market leaders in Canada (through Spex.ca), ARCOM are the market leaders of master specifications in the USA. Both organizations recognized real value in partnering. Both organizations are active members in ICIS (International Construction Information Society), and both are interested in furthering specification technology for the North American marketplace.

Our companies intend to cooperate in a number of ways:

- potentially cross-marketing each others' products in our respective countries,
- jointly performing important research/development projects, for joint benefit,
- jointly sharing text updating or other business processes, where this will benefit both of us.

Some prime benefits seen by users on both sides of the border will be improved document quality (through shared costs for updating specification text), future software file compatibility, and shared investment in new technologies (such as the evolving BIM modelling). Watch this newsletter and the Spex.ca web site for future announcements.

## SpecSuite 2007-Q3 Update (July)

### **CMS, MiniSPEC and HomeSPEC Updated**

In this calendar quarter, we have added or updated sections from Digicon's Canadian Master Specification (CMS), MiniSPEC (MS) and HomeSPEC (HS). This update addresses various technical and standards updates. Several of our subscribers advised us of inadvertent errors plus suggestions for changes or improvements. And we have responded.

We have performed a complete review of Division 06 sections for the purpose of reducing (hopefully eliminating) some minor confusion as to subject coverage of "wood" associated specification sections. Virtually all Division 06 sections in each of our SpecSUITE libraries were updated where appropriate.

Two sections were deleted from the CMS library - Section 06 41 10 - Modular Cabinetwork and Section 12 35 30 - Residential Casework. Please DELETE these two sections from your existing library. The content of these two sections was not lost - the text has been transferred to several other sections. We believe you will appreciate these changes as the updated content of all Division 06 sections and several sections in Division 12 has been greatly improved.

There are six (6) new sections added: Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control, Temporary Indoor Air Quality Control to Division 01, plus Permanent Wood Foundations to three (3) of our libraries and a new section on Manufactured Casework (in CMS)

**ALL CURRENT CMS, MiniSPEC and HomeSPEC 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 HomeSPEC sections. The following is a summary of specific sections – as listed below:

Spec	Section Number	Section Title	Discipline* Packages	Status
CMS	01 10 00	Summary of Work	All	Updated
CMS	01 32 00	Construction Progress Documentation	All	Updated
CMS	01 35 26	Environment Protection	All	Updated
CMS	01 35 41	Waste Managing and Disposal	All	Updated
CMS	01 57 13	Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control	All	<b>NEW</b>
CMS	01 57 20	Temporary Indoor Air Quality Control	All	<b>NEW</b>
CMS	01 75 16	Start-Up Procedures	All	Updated
CMS	01 91 00	Commissioning	All	Updated
CMS	03 35 12	Concrete Admixtures	A,S,C	Updated
CMS	05 51 00	Metal Stairs	A,S	Updated
CMS	05 52 00	Metal Railings	A,L,S	Updated

Spec	Section Number	Section Title	Discipline* Packages	Status
CMS	06 03 10	Finish Carpentry Restoration	H	Updated
CMS	06 10 13	Wood Blocking and Curbing	A,I,L,R,S	Updated
CMS	06 11 00	Wood Framing	A,L,S	Updated
CMS	06 13 23	Heavy Timber Construction	A, S	Updated
CMS	06 13 43	Heavy Timber Trusses	A, S	Updated
CMS	06 14 00	Permanent Wood Foundations	A,S	<b>NEW</b>
CMS	06 15 00	Wood Decking	A,L,R,S	Updated
CMS	06 17 36	Wood Chord Metal Joists	A,S	Updated
CMS	06 17 56	Plate Connected Wood Trusses	A,S	Updated
CMS	06 17 63	Plywood Web Joists	A,S	Updated
CMS	06 18 19	Glue Laminated Structural Units	A,L,S	Updated
CMS	06 20 00	Finish Carpentry	A,I	Updated
CMS	06 41 00	Modular Cabinetwork	-	<b>Deleted</b>
CMS	06 41 11	Architectural Cabinetwork	A,I	Updated
CMS	06 42 16	Wood Paneling and Decorative Trim (Name Change)	A,I	Updated
CMS	06 48 00	Wood Frames	A,I	Updated
CMS	06 62 00	Simulated Stone Fabrications (Number Change from 06 61 00)	A,L	Updated
CMS	06 80 00	Composite Fabrications	A,L	Updated
CMS	07 26 00	Vapour Retarders	A,H,R	Updated
CMS	07 27 00	Air Barriers	A,H,R	Updated
CMS	08 11 13	Standard Metal Doors and Frames	A,I	Updated
CMS	09 21 16	Gypsum Board Assemblies	A,I	Updated
CMS	12 31 00	Manufactured Metal Casework	A,I	Updated
CMS	12 32 00	Manufactured Wood Casework (NEW)	A,I	<b>NEW</b>
CMS	12 35 30	Residential Casework	-	<b>Deleted</b>
MS	06 11 10	Wood Framing	A	Updated
MS	06 14 20	Permanent Wood Foundations (NEW)	A	<b>NEW</b>
MS	06 17 30	Wood Chord Metal Joints	A	Updated
MS	06 20 10	Finish Carpentry	A	Updated

Spec	Section Number	Section Title	Discipline* Packages	Status
HS	06 11 10	Wood Superstructure Framing	--	Updated
HS	06 11 15	Partition Framing	--	Updated
HS	06 14 10	Permanent Wood Foundations (NEW)	--	<b>NEW</b>
* Discipline package codes: A = Architectural, C = Civil Engineering, E = Electrical, H = Heritage, I = Interiors, L = Landscape, M = Mechanical, R=Roofing/Waterproofing, S=Structural				

## BrandedSPEC\* - Beaver Plastics Joins!

Beaver Plastics is the latest manufacturer to join the BrandedSPEC program. Beaver Plastics is a Canadian, a ISO-9001 certified company that manufactures high-performance, engineered products made from expandable foam plastics. Visit the Beaver Plastics BrandedSPEC page directly [HERE](#).

BrandedSPEC specifications are fully-compatible with Spex.ca specifications and software, and have been developed or reviewed by Digicon to ensure that sections meet the standards established by the CSC Manual of Practice.

Manufacturers who wish to participate should contact [Spex.ca](#).

\*BrandedSPEC is a library 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**. For more information browse to the Spex.ca [BrandedSPEC Page](#) online

## NMS News

### Update Frequency Changed

Shortly after the last quarterly update, the National Master Specification Secretariat (NMSS) announced that the National Master Specification (NMS) will revert from the current quarterly update frequency, to a semi-annual update. The next anticipated update will be issued in January 2008, and issued twice per year thereafter.

### NMS Cross-References

The last NMS update (April 2007) included approximately 200 sections, many of which were renumbered to more closely match the MasterFormat 2004 standard. Since many specifications are identified in MasterFormat with 8-digit numbers, the SpecMacros and Specnique software provided by Spex.ca was updated.

Recently, users noticed some internal cross-reference errors within the NMS which were not updated with the section numbers. These are being reported to the NMSS, and repairs will be issued with the next update in January 2008.

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## Specnique News

As noted elsewhere in this SpexNews, the NMS update was issued in April containing a variety of newly assigned 8-digit section numbers. Shortly afterward, Specnique was updated in order to accommodate the new numbers. Specnique users should check their software to ensure that version 2007a is being used; earlier versions did not support 8-digit numbers.

Digicon is now offering free education copies of Specnique (along with CMS and NMS specifications) 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 young design professionals will already be up to speed using Specnique.

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## Building Information Modeling (BIM) News

### *BIM and IFD Library*

In previous columns, we have extolled the virtues of utilizing buildingSMART (BIM) compatible software in order to reliably exchange building models. We have also announced Digicon's ongoing involvement (representing CSC) in the IFD Library project. This short column will attempt to describe how the IFD Library is intended to work in the buildingSMART world, and underscore why IFD Library is so important to the future of BIM data exchange.

The buildingSMART foundation was derived from the computer drafting (CAD) world, which predominantly focusses on geometry (size and orientation). In order to exchange model data, the size and orientation is associated with fundamental building "elements", so that such elements can be reliably identified as such by the receiving application.

*For example: A model may identify drywall clad stud walls in the interior, and concrete block walls on the exterior (in this case, distinguished to not just be the wall thickness, but also by the construction type as well as it's proximity to the exterior).*

Let's assume that we have a buildingSMART compatible software, to perform heat load calculations. Importing our example wall as a buildingSMART model would automatically identify the walls as such, along with their orientation. However, let's make some assumptions:

*Assumptions:*

- *The original application labelled the inner skin of the exterior wall as "drywall"*
- *The receiving (calculation) software is configured to recognize that component what it terms as "gypsum board"*

In this case, when the model objects are exchanged, the receiving application does not recognize the term "drywall" component (because a different term was used). This disconnection must be rectified somehow (either properly identified by the user, or simply ignored by the software).

Since IFD Library is a database of "concepts", and each concept is assigned a unique ID number understood by the computers, then objects and their properties can all be exchanged without regard to the terms used to describe them. Users in the source application are free to use the term "drywall", and the receiving application understands the component as "gypsum board" appropriately.

To recreate our example in IFD Library terms:

*IFD Library example: A model is exchanged, and the originating application assigns an IFD Library ID number to the "drywall" object. The receiving application recognizes the IFD Library ID number and identifies the component appropriately as "gypsum board". The receiving application may then perform design calculations using appropriate factors for "gypsum board".*

Using the IFD Library, we can extend this functionality from handling synonyms (as in our example) to handling languages. IFD Library enables users to create a model in English, and a French application can open the model and display its components properly in French (or any of the other IFD Library languages)!

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## IFD Library\* Developments

The IFD Library partners met in Salt Lake City in June, in conjunction with an ICIS meeting held the same week. This particular meeting sought to:

- Review and advance development of the business plan,
- Review the status of the development of authoring tools,
- Develop an improved, more comprehensive IFD Library web site presence,
- Review development of guide documentation for software implementers.

Digicon has offered to host the public IFD Library web site, and development of the content will be happening over the next few months.

While IFD Library is a product of primary interest to software developers, the industry consumers will be the ultimate beneficiaries of this powerful technology. One of the primary tasks will be to develop literature and white papers that explain the concept in layman's terms.

The next IFD Library meeting is scheduled back in Ede, The Netherlands, in September 2007. The next SpexNews will provide a summary of progress made at that meeting.

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

\*The IFD Library (International Foundation for Dictionaries) is an electronic, multilingual collection of building construction terms, designed to be compatible with the buildingSMART (BIM) modelling standards being developed internationally. Canada is represented by CSC (David Watson of Digicon and Mary Friesen of Specwrite). The Netherlands, Norway, and USA (CSI) are the other partners.

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## 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 (CSC) (<http://www.csc-dcc.ca>)
- Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) (<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>)

- International Construction Information Society (ICIS) (<http://www.icis.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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