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Digicon News

Technical Support - our New Edmonton Office

Digicon's new Edmonton office “technical support” contact information and phone number is:

Digicon Information Inc.
12207 58 Street, Edmonton, AB T5W 3X6
Direct Tel: 1-780-758-4147



Jason and Janice Hicks at the CSC "Fun Night" in Halifax

New Digicon Writer - Jason Hicks, LEED AP

Digicon is pleased to announce that Jason Hicks, LEED AP has joined our team as Manager, specifications.

Jason will be responsible for preparing of project specifications, master specifications and BrandedSPEC specifications. His qualifications as a LEED AP will benefit Digicon on LEED projects, and assist our updates of CMS and MiniSPEC with respect to LEED content.

Jason is bilingual, so Digicon also gains the ability to provide improved sales and technical support for Spex.ca in the French language.

Jason and his young family reside in New Brunswick.

Linda Departs Spex.ca

It is with regret we announce that Linda Richards, our trusty front-line Spex.ca sales person, is leaving Digicon effective July 15, 2008. Linda is moving with her family to the shores of Vancouver Island in British Columbia.

Linda has been with us since October 2007 and completed the CSC Principles of Construction Documentation course which allowed her to communicate more effectively with Spex.ca customers.

Digicon wishes Linda the best in her new life in BC.



Linda Richards at her desk in the Digicon Camrose office

Specnique 2.0.1 Released

Digicon is now distributing an update to Specnique this quarter; the software versioning has been rebranded to 2.0.1. This new versioning scheme parallels other software products, and a new network licensing will be based on "concurrent" usage. The licensing system is similar to that used by Autocad, so IT departments will find it friendlier to administer.

Enhancements to the 2.0.1 version of Specnique include a greatly expanded electronic "sticky note" feature (enabling different types of notes to be kept, and enables the printing of notes).

BrandedSPEC News

BrandedSPEC* - Proprietary Specs by Spex.ca

BrandedSPEC is truly a win-win concept for construction product suppliers (and specifiers). Manufacturers are provided access to all of Spex.ca customers, and Spex.ca customers have access to quality, **proprietary** specifications

that are compatible with their specification software tools. Spex.ca customers who like this free service should encourage it by asking manufacturer representatives to participate. These special unique documents are developed by Digicon under the leadership of one of our specifiers, Mary Friesen FCSC, RSW residing in Winnipeg MB.

Manufacturers interested in participating should contact Geri Watson directly at 1-780-628-4494, OR through the Spex.ca toll-free number 1-800-610-SPEC (7732).

*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.

New BrandedSPEC Customers

Spex.ca wish to announce and acknowledge the following new customers who have added their quality proprietary specifications to the BrandedSPEC programme:



[Owens-Corning](#)
(insulation)



[Henkel Canada Corporation](#)
(adhesives and sealants)

These companies have joined BrandedSPEC; some are presently having their specifications written or reviewed. If you do not see their specifications online, please check back soon.

The BrandedSPEC program is growing, and Digicon is presently drafting a number of new proprietary specifications for manufacturers who will join BrandedSPEC when they are complete.

Industry News

CSC National Conference - Halifax 2008

CSC hosted its annual conference in Halifax, NS this year on May 28 - 31, 2008. Many excellent technical sessions and display booths were available to industry participants. The much anticipated "Fun Night" was sponsored by Canadian Gypsum. The sumptuous evening meal focused on a whole lobster (each) - fabulous to say the least.



David Watson of Digicon presented on the Thursday to a group of manufacturers' representatives, discussing "How to Design Product Data Sheets and Web Sites"; a topic about which Digicon has a wealth of experience. During the presentation, David introduced CSC ProductFormat, which is a newly published standard for the structure of data sheets, and informed the audience of our BrandedSPEC program and the benefits to manufacturers of developing and distributing well-written template specifications. Digicon was represented by both David Watson and Wayne Watson.



ICIS 2008 - Berlin Germany

The International Construction Information Society (ICIS) held its annual meeting a few weeks ago - June 15-18, 2008 in Berlin, Germany. This is an organization of 18 members from 14 countries world-wide. These organizations are similar to Canada's Digicon Information Inc., as national publishers of master specifications. Digicon has attended and participated in all fourteen annual ICIS sessions. This organization was formally launched in 1994 at the ICIS Conference in Banff, Alberta where CSC and Digicon co-hosted the event. CSC and Digicon are founding members - and continue to gain much from this international exposure to the global construction industry's developments.

The theme topic this year was "the future of specifications". This was an apt subject as many changes are happening world wide that impact directly on us, including:

- how specifications are prepared in our electronic "revolution" (world wide),
- the impact that BIM is having on specification preparation,
- the movement towards preparing construction documentation using electronic databases,
- the impact that project delivery methods (traditional contractor, versus construction management, design builder, and other modes of constructing a project),
- the maturation of standards for the exchange of electronic building models (buildingSMART), and
- the importance of a global terminology standard for use in BIM models, such as that being developed by an IFD Library (an international consortium comprised of CSC (Canada), CSI (USA), STABU in the Netherlands and buildingSMART Norway). CSC (Canada) is represented by David Watson of Digicon.

Our discussions were based on well prepared presentations that were shared by all present. The dialogue is private as many companies like Digicon were opening their doors to sharing business information. The event was well attended plus we were able to come home to Canada with some great ideas as to how we can offer better products and services to our Canada-wide customer base. Digicon was formally represented by both Wayne Watson and David Watson.

IFD Library Workshop in Berlin, Germany

As most SpexNews readers may recall, IFD Library is a CSC project dealing with a world-wide terminology standard for software developers - specifically concerning modelling (BIM) technology.

This project is impacting the industry. A workshop occurred in Berlin, Germany immediately following the ICIS meetings (described above). David Watson of Digicon is the representative for CSC (an IFD Library Partner), and was involved in this workshop. The next workshop is planned for September in Stockholm Sweden this year. CSC and Digicon will be there.



buildingSMART International Conference in Stockholm, Sweden

During the week of September 15-19, 2008, the international buildingSMART community will assemble in Stockholm, Sweden for five days of meetings. The IFD Library partners, who operate as a group within buildingSMART, will also meet during this week. David Watson (Digicon) and Michael Schneider CCCA, (Past National President of CSC), who are the IFD Library representatives for CSC, will be attending.

PRODUCTFORMAT® Published on Spex.ca

PRODUCTFORMAT is a new organizational document for Canada, developed by Digicon and endorsed by Construction Specifications Canada (CSC) for use by product manufacturers, distributors, suppliers, product importers and others providing materials and product information to the construction industry. PRODUCTFORMAT is free and available for download and use now at the Spex.ca [Free Documents](#) page.

SpecSuite News, 2008-Q3 Update

CMS and MiniSPEC Update Overview

In this calendar quarter, we have updated sections from Digicon's SpecSUITE Master Specifications, incorporating various technical and standards changes. A particular focus was on an extensive update to many sections in the mechanical and electrical divisions 21 thru 28 inclusive - PLUS an overhaul of the sections in CMS Heritage. Also please note the CMS Heritage section 01 15 10 - Restoration Project Procedures has been changed to a revised **01 35 91 - Historic Treatment Procedures**.

As a reminder - **ALL** subscribers should delete the four (4) sections regarding the handling of hazardous materials or contaminated sites. Please refer to our second (2nd) quarter newsletter, for a detailed explanation.

Sections Updated This Quarter

Updates this quarter include the following summary of specific sections – applicable Libraries are listed below:

Library	Section #	Section Name	Discipline*	Status
CMS	01 15 10	Restoration Project Procedures	All	Updated
CMS	01 35 91	Restoration Project Procedures	All	Replaces 01 15 00
CMS	03 01 31	Concrete Repair	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	03 03 30	Concrete Restoration	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	04 01 21	Masonry Restoration And Cleaning	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	04 03 40	Restoration Mortar	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	04 03 41	Masonry Restoration	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	04 03 42	Terra Cotta Restoration	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	04 03 43	Chemical Cleaning Of Masonry	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	04 03 44	Water Cleaning Of Masonry	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	04 03 45	Steam Cleaning Of Masonry	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	05 03 51	Ornamental Metal Restoration	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	06 03 10	Finish Carpentry Restoration	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	07 03 71	Shingle Restoration	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	07 03 72	Roofing Tile Restoration	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	07 03 73	Sheet Metal Roofing Restoration	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	07 03 74	Sheet Metal Restoration	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	07 03 75	Joint Sealers For Restoration	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	08 03 81	Metal Window Restoration	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	08 03 82	Wood Door Restoration	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	08 03 83	Wood Window Restoration	A,H, I	Updated



... a marketing alliance between CSC and Digicon

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Library	Section #	Section Name	Discipline*	Status
CMS	08 03 84	Hardware Restoration	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	08 03 85	Stained Glass Restoration	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	08 03 86	Restoration Glazing	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	09 03 91	Gypsum Plaster Restoration	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	09 03 92	Portland Cement Plaster Restoration	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	09 03 93	Ornamental Plaster Restoration	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	09 03 94	Tile Restoration	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	09 03 95	Terrazzo Restoration	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	09 03 96	Wood Flooring Restoration	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	09 03 98	Restoration Painting	A,H, I	Updated
CMS	22 05 81	Disinfection Of Water Distribution Piping	M	Updated
CMS	22 10 00	Plumbing Piping	M	Updated
CMS	22 42 01	Plumbing Specialties	M	Updated
CMS	22 42 02	Plumbing Fixtures	M	Updated
CMS	22 47 00	Plumbing Equipment	M	Updated
CMS	22 51 00	Swimming Pool Equipment	M	Updated
CMS	26 09 01	Electrical Sensing And Measurement	E	Updated
CMS	26 09 02	Electric Controls and Relays	E	Updated
CMS	26 11 00	Unit Substation	E	Updated
CMS	26 12 16	Transformers - Dry-Type	E	Updated
CMS	26 12 19	Distribution Transformers - Pad Mounted	E	Updated
CMS	26 13 13	Enclosed Circuit Breakers	E	Updated
CMS	26 18 16	Fuses	E	Updated
CMS	26 18 39	Medium Voltage Motor Controllers	E	Updated
CMS	27 05 28	Telephone Service, Pathways, And Wiring	E	Updated
CMS	27 15 33	Television Distribution	E	Updated
CMS	27 41 13	Closed Circuit Television	E	Updated
CMS	27 51 16	Public Address And Music Devices	E	Updated
CMS	27 51 23	Intercom Devices	E	Updated
CMS	27 52 23	Nurse Call Devices	E	Updated
CMS	27 53 13	Clock Devices	E	Updated
CMS	28 13 28	Security Access Components	E	Updated
CMS	28 16 00	Intrusion Detection	E	Updated
CMS	28 31 00	Fire Alarm	E	Updated

MiniSPEC	07 84 00	Firestopping	A	NEW
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* CMS Discipline package codes: A = Architectural, C = Civil Engineering, E = Electrical, H = Heritage, I = Interiors, L = Landscape, M = Mechanical, R=Roofing/Waterproofing, S=Structural

LEED® Implementation in CMS

As mentioned in the article directly above, CMS master specification subscribers, can now have Division 01 sections with full sustainability recognition included. CMS users can now easily accommodate and specify the documentation and site administration obligations requirements for LEED projects.



LEED is the only sustainability program that addresses an entire project from establishing project design criteria, selecting materials and products, specifying this criteria in specification language, monitoring the construction processes for full compliance, and commissioning the work - all in a single program, and primarily in one specification section. The process of selecting LEED compliant materials and products will have been completed by the design team, and the specifications serve to enforce those decisions on the project site.

CSC recently completed a CSC sustainability TEK·AID which includes an explanatory **Digest** plus associated **Specification** sections. Digicon played a key role in creating that document. This new CSC TEK·AID will be available on the Spex.ca website, with public release expected later this year.

CCDC 2 - 2008: Supported by CMS and MiniSPEC

Our April 2008 update, Digicon updated the CMS and MiniSPEC Division 00 and 01 documents to address these new 2008 CCDC contract forms as well as to continue supporting the older 1994 Edition (at least for a while). We also included in that update, considerable changes and improvements to utilizing these documents to address their LEED projects.

It is not known when the National Master Specification (NMS) will incorporate CCDC2-2008 into their master specification sections; it will be at least January 2009 (the next update cycle).

SpecSUITE Update Frequency Met With Customer Enthusiasm

Digicon has the continuing ability to produce much larger, multiple discipline updates (than we have in the past), four (4) times a year. We have improved our ability to electronically track and implement changes to industry standards to our specifications, with an objective to keeping all of our specifications current to a maximum of 1.5 years from the current published date.

Relevant URL Links

The following URL links will serve to link readers to topics which are included in our newsletter and activities that impact our industry.

- Arcom (publishers of AIA MASTERSPEC) (<http://www.arcomnet.com>)
- BrandedSPEC (<https://secure.spex.ca/index.php?page=branded/index.php>)
- Canada Green Building Council (<http://www.cagbc.org>)
- 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.org>)
- International Alliance for Interoperability (IAI) (<http://www.iai-international.org>)
- International Construction Information Society (ICIS) (<http://www.icis.org>)
- Canadian Green Building Council (CaGBC): (<http://www.cagbc.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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