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**Digicon News**
***Spex.ca Welcomes Cheryl***

We have a new SPEX.CA telephone support specialist on-board with SPEX.CA in our Camrose office. Her name is **Cheryl**. She joined us this summer and has embraced her position very quickly and proficiently. She is currently studying the CSC specifications course material (while she works) between customer phone calls. We are very pleased that she has earned the trust of our customers very quickly. Cheryl has also quickly adapted to our recently upgraded customer database.

***LEED™ improvements to SpecSUITE Specifications***

Jason Hicks, Digicon's Manager Specifications (a LEED Accredited Professional), is assisting us to better embrace sustainable design processes in our industry today. Our flagship specification products, CMS and MiniSPEC in particular, have had a Division 01 section for the purpose of specifying LEED submittal requirements. Jason is assisting us to better integrate key technical sections with Division 01 requirements, as well as assist the specifier on LEED projects to obtain both requisite and optional credits.

This effort will make Digicon specifications easier to edit for a LEED project, while improving the readability by contractors on the project site during the progress of construction. We are introducing these streamlined improvements in this current update and future updates in 2009.

***Standards in Specifications Versus Standards in Building Codes***

We have had several enquires over the years regarding differences in standards (and sometimes their dates of publication) cited in our national and provincial building codes versus standards cited in our master specifications -

which also include a date of publication to a standard. The standards being cited and specifically the dates of publication are of concern to many - including us.

**Background - NBC:** Recent editions of the National Building Code (NBC) of Canada have been developed over a considerable period of time. It is not uncommon for the actual development of the code text, its technical and public review processes, and its adoption by the provinces and territories, to take a period of ten or so years to happen. The code text usually includes references to a specific dated edition of a subject applicable standard. This time period involves extensive research as to the applicability of a standard to suit a code purpose.

**In The Meantime:** Publishers of standards have probably updated their standards and added an updated publication date. That often means the published and adopted building code often has an outdated standard reference. Which is the correct reference to apply to a project condition? The outdated code reference ... or the updated specification reference?

**What To Do:** We have recently learned that many officials of an Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) usually accept the more current standard reference with the more recent date. However, we have also recently learned that a few AHJ's are not accepting that practice -- they are insisting on the NBC standard with its published date. Our view is that the latter stance is difficult or impossible to enforce if a stated standard is out of publication or not available for purchase. How can anyone push to enforce a dated standard that doesn't exist? Recently we have also identified many such standards referenced in NBC that have been withdrawn or have been replaced by the industry itself. Our own CMS and MiniSPEC sections quote the current edition and date, current with our updates. We believe our position is on firm and practical ground.

## ***BIM Specifications Research***

Digicon is continually researching the newest technology related to specifications. The largest impact to specifications presently is the industry movement to building information modelling (BIM) and 3-dimensional drawings. Digicon has witnessed the BIM technology approach for some time, and is presently restructuring its specifications database to embrace BIM utilizing buildingSMART technology.

Digicon and its directors have participated in a variety of ICIS, ISO, and buildingSMART committees on the topic of standardization of building models and the implementation of specifications into the modelling world.

- [International Construction Information Society \(ICIS\)](#); a global organization consisting of companies similar to Digicon in 16 other countries. Wayne Watson (representing CSC) participated in the formation of ICIS in 1992, and became a founding member of ICIS in 1994. Digicon itself joined in 1996. ICIS is the primary vehicle through which we learn about specifications technology in other developed countries.
- [International Organization for Standardization \(ISO\)](#), TC59/SC13: Digicon participates in a variety of ISO committees concerned with the international standardization of classification and data modelling.
- [IFD Library](#): David Watson of Digicon represents Construction Specifications Canada (CSC) in this project to develop a neutral, international terminology standard for use in building models. IFD Library operates as a group within the buildingSMART International (formerly the International Alliance for Interoperability, or IAI), which is responsible for the development and maintenance of the Industry Foundation Classes (IFC) standard for the data exchange of building models.

Digicon believes in the adoption of world-wide industry standards in order to accomplish true inter-operability. Having participated in the development of BIM standards for the construction industry for well over 10 years, Digicon feels that the BIM software and modelling standards have matured enough to invest in specification technology which can reliably communicate with other BIM software applications.

Digicon is presently moving to transforming its specification text into the new BIM-friendly database structure. The first generation of our BIM specification software is scheduled to be released in late 2009.

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## 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**" 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:



[DIRTT Environmental Solutions](#)  
(Demountable Partitions)



[Architectural Painting Specification Manual](#)  
(Paint and Finishes)

These companies have joined BrandedSPEC, and some others 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.

### **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 available now for download at the Spex.ca [Free Documents](#) page.

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## Industry News

### **CSC National Conference - London Ontario in 2009**

CSC will host its annual conference in London Ontario next year on May 21 - 24, 2009. CSC has a reputation for excellent technical sessions, great "fun" evening events, and supported by display booths for industry participants. More on this event in next year's newsletters.

### ***IFD Library Workshop in Stockholm Sweden***

A Conference and Workshop occurred in Stockholm in October 2008. David Watson of Digicon and CSC Past President Michael Schneider represented CSC (an IFD Library Partner) in these events. The next IFD Library workshop is planned in conjunction with a buildingSMART Conference in Paris, France, in spring 2009.



### ***buildingSMART International Conference in Paris***

The IFD Library partners, who operate as a group within buildingSMART, will meet during the next buildingSMART conference in Paris, France in May 2009. Additional details will appear in the next issue of SpexNews.

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## **SpecSuite News, 2008-Q4 Update**

### ***CMS, MiniSPEC, HomeSPEC and MasterProspectus Update Overview***

In this calendar quarter, we have updated sections for Digicon’s SpecSUITE Master Specifications, incorporating various important technical and standards changes. Of particular note are the architectural sections within Divisions 03 to 07 inclusive where we have introduced references to updated standards as well as to address **LEED criteria**. We have also added a few new sections that our customers have requested - refer to the listing below.

Please note that we have added a new section to our CMS, MiniSPEC, and HomeSPEC databases, and MasterProspectus has been updated in its entirety. The new sections address harmful radon and methane gases rising from under-building subsoils into people occupied building spaces. The introduction of radon sections was prompted by a recent announcement in an NBC circular that protection from these harmful gases will become a building code requirement in the next edition of the NBC.

As a reminder - **ALL** subscribers should **DELETE** Section 07 51 16 - Built-up Coal Tar Roofing. This section represented a roofing product and its assembly that is not readily used nor readily available in Canada any more.

### ***Sections Updated This Quarter***

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

<b>Library</b>	<b>Section #</b>	<b>Section Name</b>	<b>Discipline*</b>	<b>Status</b>
CMS	01 73 00	Execution	All	Updated
CMS	03 01 31	Concrete Repair	A,H	Updated
CMS	03 01 32	Preparation For Resurfacing Concrete	A,H	Updated
CMS	03 03 30	Concrete Restoration	A,H	Updated
CMS	03 11 00	Concrete Forming	A	Updated
CMS	03 20 00	Concrete Reinforcing	A	Updated
CMS	03 30 00	Cast-in-Place Concrete	A	Updated
CMS	03 35 10	Concrete Floor Finishing	A	Updated
CMS	03 35 11	Concrete Floor Sealing	A	Updated
CMS	03 35 12	Concrete Admixtures	A	Updated
CMS	04 04 05	Mortar and Masonry Grout	A	Updated

Library	Section #	Section Name	Discipline*	Status
CMS	04 04 15	Masonry Anchorage and Reinforcement	A	Updated
CMS	04 04 25	Masonry Units	A	Updated
CMS	04 04 75	Stone Masonry Units	A	Updated
CMS	04 23 00	Glass Unit Masonry	A	Updated
CMS	04 26 13	Single Wythe Masonry	A	Updated
CMS	04 26 16	Veneer Masonry	A	Updated
CMS	04 26 19	Reinforced Unit Masonry	A	Updated
CMS	04 27 13	Composite Unit Masonry	A	Updated
CMS	04 27 23	Cavity Wall Unit Masonry	A	Updated
CMS	05 12 00	Structural Steel	A	Updated
CMS	05 21 00	Steel Joist Framing	A	Updated
CMS	05 31 13	Steel Floor Decking	A	Updated
CMS	05 31 23	Steel Roof Decking	A,R	Updated
CMS	05 41 00	Structural Metal Lightweight Framing	A	Updated
CMS	05 50 00	Metal Fabrications	A	Updated
CMS	06 10 13	Wood Blocking and Curbing	A,R	Updated
CMS	06 11 00	Wood Framing	A	Updated
CMS	06 15 00	Wood Decking	A,R	Updated
CMS	06 20 00	Finish Carpentry	A	Updated
CMS	06 41 11	Architectural Cabinetwork	A	Updated
CMS	06 42 16	Wood Panelling and Decorative Trim	A	Updated
CMS	06 48 00	Wood Frames	A	Updated
CMS	07 11 13	Bituminous Dampproofing	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 12 13	Bituminous Sheet Waterproofing	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 13 00	Sheet Membrane Waterproofing	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 14 00	Fluid - Applied Waterproofing	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 17 00	Bentonite Waterproofing	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 21 13	Board Insulation	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 21 16	Blanket Insulation	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 21 19	Foamed-in-Place Insulation	A,H,R	Updated
CMS	07 21 23	Loose - Fill Insulation	A,H,R	Updated
CMS	07 21 26	Blown Insulation	A,H,R	Updated
CMS	07 21 29	Sprayed Insulation	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 26 00	Vapour Retarders	A,H,R	Updated
CMS	07 26 23	Subgrade Membrane - Gas Barrier	A	New
CMS	07 27 00	Air Barriers	A,H,R	Updated
CMS	07 50 11	Single Ply Roofing – Loose Laid Ballasted - Conventional	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 50 13	Single Ply Roofing – Mechanically Attached - Conventional	A,R	Replaced
CMS	07 50 19	Single Ply Roofing - Fully Adhered - Conventional	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 51 13	Built-up Asphalt Roofing - Conventional	A,R	Updated
<del>CMS</del>	<del>07 51 16</del>	<del>Built-up Coal Tar Roofing</del>	<del>A,R</del>	<del>Deleted</del>
CMS	07 51 53	Single Ply Roofing – Protected Membrane	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 52 11	SBS/APP Modified Bitumen Membrane - Conventional	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 54 11	Single Ply TPO Roofing – Mechanically Attached –	A,R	Updated

Library	Section #	Section Name	Discipline*	Status
		Conventional		
CMS	07 55 51	Built-up Asphalt Roofing - Protected Membrane	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 55 52	SBS/SPP Modified Bitumen - Protected Membrane Roofing	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 55 57	Rubberized Asphalt Roofing - Protected Membrane	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 57 13	Sprayed Polyurethane Foam Roofing	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 62 00	Sheet Metal Flashing And Trim	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 63 00	Sheet Metal Roof Specialties	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 81 16	Cementitious Fireproofing	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 81 33	Mineral - Fibre Fireproofing	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 84 00	Firestopping	A,H,R	Updated
CMS	07 91 11	Elastomeric Joint Seals	A,H,R	Updated
CMS	07 92 00	Joint Sealants	A,H,R	Updated
CMS	10 56 23	Metal Wire Storage Shelving	A	NEW

MiniSPEC	07 26 20	Subgrade Membrane - Gas Barrier	A	NEW
MiniSPEC	10 56 20	Metal Wire Storage Shelving	A	NEW

HomeSpec	07 26 10	Subgrade Membrane - Gas Barrier	-	NEW
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MasterProspectus	All	All Sections Replaced	All	Updated
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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

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 obligatory site administration 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.

Having said that CMS has been updated to address LEED requirements, Digicon is also updating sections for sustainability in the technical sections in a manner that promotes sustainable product choices, even if the project is not LEED.

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 very shortly.

## CCDC 2 - 2008: Supported by CMS and MiniSPEC

Reminder: CMS and MiniSPEC Division 00 and 01 documents support the 2008 CCDC contract forms as well as the older 1994 Edition (at least for a while). We are including changes and improvements to utilizing these documents to address their use on LEED projects.

It is not known when the National Master Specification (NMS) will incorporate CCDC2-2008 into their master specification sections.

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## 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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