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Digicon News

Digicon's IRAP Research Grant

Our IRAP-assisted project is well underway. IRAP is a division of the National Research Council (NRC). Previously, we reported that Digicon is beginning a process of re-structuring our specifications text in preparation for the BIM environment – that effort is ongoing and we hope to have it completed by the time our new software is ready. The process of updating our texts will have positive side effect on legacy Word users; expanded the optional text value options within paragraphs will now make the option set easier to read and to select from. This change will also enable our documents to better address conversion to our forthcoming BIM software.

Digicon Announces BIMdrive

The first version of this new BIM software under development with the assistance of IRAP, has been named "BIMdrive". BIMdrive will enable users to interact with specification data as though they were BIM objects. In essence, users will be able to browse and select 'elements' or 'products', and the relevant text (whether they appear in Parts 1, 2 or 3 of the section) are included or excluded as appropriate. The advantage of this approach is DRASTICALLY reduced specification development times, by "building" the specification from zero, rather than "deleting" inappropriate text from a complete master.

Digicon BIM Presentations

We are beginning to receive requests to present BIM topics at CSC Chapters and with larger Canadian design firms. These two consecutive presentations will address:

- IFD Library: This topic explores the status of the evolving terminology standard for the BIM world. The IFD Library basics operate as a "group" within the buildingSMART International organization.
- BIM Specifications: This topic covers the impact on specifications in BIM, both from a technology standpoint as well as a contractual standpoint. After a powerpoint presentation, a sneak preview of Digicon's new BIM software user interface will be shown. Interest demonstrated thus far is that the industry is ready for this new category of software.

The latest two invitations have come from CSC – Montreal Chapter, and CSC – Toronto Chapter. Refer to "[Industry News](#)" in this newsletter for details.

David Travels To Iceland

As Secretary of ICIS, David Watson had the privilege to travel to Reykjavic, Iceland to attend an ICIS Board meeting, and to meet representatives of the Iceland building centre there. As some of you may know, Iceland is experiencing much greater difficulty with the global recession than most countries. They have only 300,000 inhabitants, and consequently have not developed any standardization of specifications. The industry representatives there recognize this, and have approached ICIS for assistance. This is a perfect example of why ICIS was formed, and we (ICIS) are anxious to assist the "new kid" on the block.

Iceland is a mostly volcanic, and their hot water all comes from hot springs (all buildings are heated using hot water). When asked about potable water, apparently both hot and cold water pipes are distributed. Raw materials are also minimal (limited to volcanic rock, of course), although recently oil has been discovered in the sea near their borders. As such, 95% of products are imported (one of the prime reasons for their present economic situation).

Concrete is a predominant building material, since they have been able to create most of it using local raw materials (imagine building a house in a place with no trees or steel to make stud walls). They capitalize on the thermal mass of their concrete buildings with their hot water heating; buildings in Iceland are quite comfortable – even with open windows on a cool day.



David Watson (ICIS Secretary) and Christer Finne (ICIS Treasurer) pose in front of the hotel restaurant in Reykjavic. This building is typical Icelandic, with sheet metal siding to counter-effect the predominant high winds experienced in Iceland.

BrandedSPEC News

BrandedSPEC* - Quality Proprietary Specs for FREE

BrandedSPECs by Digicon provide specifiers with proprietary specifications that are comprehensive and meet all standards for the year they were developed. Current BrandedSPEC specifications are available free of charge on the Spex.ca web site. Check them out; they are an invaluable resource.

Digicon's also services manufacturers and distributors with the development of Product Descriptions formatted to the new ProductFormat standard, and MSDS sheets which are becoming more useful (and necessary) to many specifiers. These documents complement the BrandedSPEC specifications. Resources for these documents are being placed on Digicon's web site and distributed via the Spex.ca web site.

BrandedSPEC – Web and Marketing Drive

Digicon has promoted the BrandedSPEC program passively the last few years, with lacklustre response. We are convinced that such a service is necessary and valuable to manufacturers and the design community alike, and we just need to educate our customers of its value. We have decided to invest in a comprehensive marketing program, with the goal to greatly increase the number of manufacturer specifications available.

*BrandedSPEC is a library of brand name (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.

Manufacturers interested in participating should contact our staff member "Geri" using the Spex.ca toll-free number 1-800-610-SPEC (7732).

Industry News

Digicon BIM Presentations

As you probably know, David delivered a presentation about BIM for Specifications at the CSC Conference in London, ON last May. Apparently, this is a hot topic, as we've been approached to deliver a few more of these presentations. We are currently scheduled to present at the following venues:

- October 14: CSC – Montreal Chapter meeting
- October 15: CSC – Ottawa Chapter meeting
- March 8, Toronto "No-Frills" Trade Show

CSC Green TEK-AID Still Pending

A comprehensive TEK-AID on "Environmental/Green Supplement" will be released in the near future by Construction Specifications Canada (CSC) (the exact date is still unknown), and made available through the Spex.ca website. This publication explains the purpose and application of sustainability, specifically as they relate to the specifications and contractual aspect of our industry. The TEK-AID has two significant parts - an explanatory Digest plus supporting Specification Sections prepared in a "master specification" context. These master specifications are focussed on citing contractual criteria that applies to all administrative and technical specifications - from Division 00 through to Division 49. These new CSC documents will be compatible with current CMS master specifications - Divisions 2 thru 49.

ICIS

Next Delegates Assembly will be in April 2010, in Sydney Australia

ICIS members (including Digicon) meet to discuss the latest trends in specifications globally. Digicon intends to be represented there by David Watson, Digicon President (and ICIS Secretary) and Wayne Watson, Digicon Information Inc., Vice President. CSC is also represented. The theme at this Conference will be looking to the distant future (2025) to see what our "construction world" will look like.



CSC National Conferences

May 26-30, 2010: - Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

CSC will host its annual conference in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on May 26 - 30, 2010.

More information about the upcoming CSC conference can be found at

<http://www.cscconference.ca>.



CCDC News

Coming Soon - CCDC 5A and 5B:

New: CCDC is expected to release two (2) new documents early next year. They are:

- **CCDC 5A – Construction Management Contract – For Services, and**
- **CCDC 5B – Construction Management Contract – For Services and Construction.**

Digicon will be releasing support for these contract forms in CMS and MiniSPEC Division 00 and 01 sections accordingly. We are sure pleased to see this document development and release happen, none to soon.

CCDC Documents About to be Released:

We note from a recent CCDC advisory, that two (2) additional CCDC documents are due for release shortly. These two documents are:

- CCDC 17 – Stipulated Price Contract Between Owner and Trade Contractor for CM Projects.
- Guide to CCDC Construction management Contracts.

SpecSuite News, 2009-Q4 Update

This update contains references and updates relating to specifying gypsum board or laminated panel products. We wish to advise our customers using Digicon's master specification sections that an industry "caution" has been widely circulated with respect to specifying gypsum board or panel products.

In recent years, there have been gypsum board products sold in North America which have been found to pose a potential health hazard. These products were reportedly manufactured in south-east Asia and emit toxic hydrogen sulphide, sulphur dioxide (detected by the odour of rotten eggs) or other related gasses which are released into the air within building spaces after installation. These gases can be harmful to human health in both short and long term periods.

Short term human health problems are reported to include eye, ear and nose irritation, respiratory problems, fatigue, and headache. Long terms problems are, as yet, unknown. This off-gassing is also reported to be corrosive to certain common metals. Of note, this metal deterioration is common with electrical wiring and wiring devices, evaporating coils (in air conditioners and such), light bulb bases and their sockets, and other such copper and ferrous metal components.

Of special note is that industry endorsed reference standards which we commonly specify and use for panel products do **NOT** specifically exclude the usage of these noxious ingredients in the gypsum mix. This means that special attention over and above the commonly specified standards is necessary to avoid problems on projects.

We urge to you edit your project specifications to discourage the usage of these harmful gypsum products. We are currently updating our specification sections with this message plus appropriate language, accordingly.

Canadian Master Specification (CMS) Make-Over

Our primary specification product, CMS is this year, undergoing a complete technical make-over and update to all of its sections - including updated sections in this calendar quarter. This updating includes minor text re-structuring to accommodate our ongoing BIM development program (mentioned above).

An Errant CMS Section

In performing the above review, we inadvertently discovered an error in one of our Division 01 sections. This errant section had an incorrect MasterFormat #. That number and section name was section 01 35 91 – Waste Managing and Disposal. The correct number and name now is: 01 74 20 - Waste Managing and Disposal. Consequently, we have corrected this error in all affected sections. This error also rippled through other CMS sections where the errant number was cited as a cross reference. We have corrected all of those incorrect reference instances and included those corrected sections in this update.

MiniSPEC

In this calendar quarter, we have updated a significant batch of MiniSPEC specification sections destined for our BIM programme.

In our 2009-Q2 (April) Update, we initiated LEED requirements into our MiniSPEC master specification package. This was done to assist those consultants and specifiers (on behalf of their owner clients) who wish to have their smaller project LEED Certified. You will also notice that most LEED requirements can be easily managed with direct reference to Division 01 – to handle the administration of such an important program.

The forthcoming CSC TEK·AID on Sustainability described above, also describes the same specifying strategy of specifying LEED administrative criteria in Division 01. This is a simple and effective way to describe and specify LEED – with LEED requirements applicable to ALL project specification sections. Individual specification sections can still address requirements specific to that section, complementing the Division 01 requirements.

Sections Updated This Quarter

Updates this quarter include the following summary of specific sections.

Library	Section #	Section Name	Status
CMS	01 74 20	Waste Managing and Disposal	Renumbered & Updated
CMS	04 03 40	Restoration Mortar	Updated
CMS	04 03 43	Chemical Cleaning Of Masonry	Updated
CMS	04 03 44	Water Cleaning Of Masonry	Updated
CMS	04 03 45	Steam Cleaning Of Masonry	Updated
CMS	06 03 10	Finish Carpentry Restoration	Updated
CMS	07 03 71	Shingle Restoration	Updated
CMS	07 16 16	Crystalline Waterproofing	New
CMS	08 03 84	Hardware Restoration	Updated
CMS	08 03 86	Restoration Glazing	Updated
CMS	09 68 13	Tile Carpeting	Updated
CMS	09 68 20	Carpet And Cushion	Updated
CMS	09 68 23	Carpet - Glue Down	Updated
CMS	11 12 10	Parking Control Equipment	Updated
CMS	11 13 13	Loading Dock Bumpers	Updated
CMS	11 13 16	Loading Dock Seals And Shelters	Updated

Library	Section #	Section Name	Status
CMS	11 13 20	Loading Dock Levelers	Updated
CMS	11 31 00	Residential Appliances	Updated
CMS	11 40 00	Food Service Equipment	Updated
CMS	11 52 13	Projection Screens	Updated
CMS	11 53 00	Laboratory Equipment	Updated
CMS	11 66 25	Basketball Backstops	Updated
CMS	11 70 05	Healthcare Equipment	New
CMS	11 82 26	Waste Compactors And Destructors	Updated
CMS	12 48 43	Floor Mats	Updated
CMS	13 11 00	Swimming Pools	Updated
CMS	13 17 13	Hot Tubs	Updated
CMS	13 21 26	Cold Storage Rooms	Updated
CMS	13 24 16	Saunas	Updated
CMS	13 24 26	Steam Baths	Updated
CMS	13 49 00	Radiation Protection	Updated
CMS	14 12 00	Electric Dumbwaiters	Updated
CMS	14 21 13	Electric Traction Freight Elevators	Updated
CMS	14 21 23	Electric Traction Passenger Elevators	Updated
CMS	14 24 13	Hydraulic Freight Elevators	Updated
CMS	14 24 23	Hydraulic Passenger Elevators	Updated
CMS	14 31 00	Escalators	Updated
CMS	14 91 82	Trash Chutes	New
CMS	31 31 16	Termite Control	Updated
CMS	31 32 14	Cement Soil Stabilization	Updated
CMS	31 32 15	Lime Soil Stabilization	Updated
CMS	31 32 19	Geosynthetic Soil Stabilization	Updated
CMS	31 36 25	Stone Filled Gabions	Updated
CMS	31 37 10	Riprap	Updated
CMS	31 37 12	Dumped Rock Rip-Rap	Updated
CMS	31 51 19	Soil Anchors	Updated
CMS	31 62 16	Steel Sheet Piling	Updated
CMS	31 62 19	Timber Piles	Updated
CMS	31 63 29	Drilled Concrete Piers	Updated
CMS	32 01 11	Pavement Surface Cleaning	Updated
CMS	32 01 14	Pavement Routing and Crack Sealing	Updated
CMS	32 01 16	Flexible Paving Rehabilitation	Updated
CMS	32 01 18	Pavement Crack Repair	Updated
CMS	32 13 13	Concrete Paving	Updated
CMS	32 14 23	Asphalt Unit Paving	Updated
CMS	32 14 40	Stone Paving	Updated
CMS	32 14 41	Limestone Paving	Updated
CMS	32 15 35	Re-Gravel Roads	Updated
CMS	32 17 13	Parking Bumpers	Updated
CMS	32 31 40	Electronic Security Gate	Updated
CMS	33 21 15	Well Pumps	New
MiniSPEC	00 31 30	Subsurface Investigation Report	Updated
MiniSPEC	00 72 70	General and Supplementary Conditions	Updated
MiniSPEC	01 00 00	Summary	Updated
MiniSPEC	01 30 00	Administrative Requirements	Updated
MiniSPEC	01 33 10	Submittal Procedures	Updated
MiniSPEC	01 35 20	LEED Requirements and Procedures	Updated
MiniSPEC	01 35 41	Waste Managing and Disposal	Updated

Library	Section #	Section Name	Status
MiniSPEC	01 57 13	Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control	Updated
MiniSPEC	01 70 00	Close-Out Requirements	Updated
MiniSPEC	03 05 00	Cast-in-place Concrete	Updated
MiniSPEC	03 35 10	Concrete Floor Finishing	Updated
MiniSPEC	03 40 10	Precast Concrete Hollow Core Planks	Updated
MiniSPEC	03 41 00	Precast Structural Concrete	Updated
MiniSPEC	03 54 10	Self Levelling Underlayment	Updated
MiniSPEC	04 05 15	Masonry Mortaring	Updated
MiniSPEC	04 23 10	Glass Unit Masonry	Updated
MiniSPEC	04 27 10	Composite Unit Masonry	Updated
MiniSPEC	05 12 10	Structural Steel	Updated
MiniSPEC	05 21 10	Steel Joist Framing	Updated
MiniSPEC	05 31 00	Steel Decking	Updated
MiniSPEC	05 50 10	Metal Fabrications	Updated
MiniSPEC	05 51 10	Metal Stairs	Updated
MiniSPEC	06 11 10	Wood Framing	Updated
MiniSPEC	06 14 20	Permanent Wood Foundations	Updated
MiniSPEC	06 17 30	Wood Chord Metal Joists	Updated
MiniSPEC	06 17 50	Plate Connected Wood Trusses	Updated
MiniSPEC	06 17 60	Plywood Web Joists	Updated
MiniSPEC	06 18 15	Glue Laminated Structural Units	Updated
MiniSPEC	06 20 10	Finish Carpentry	Updated
MiniSPEC	06 41 15	Modular Cabinetwork	Updated
MiniSPEC	07 11 10	Bituminous Dampproofing	Updated
MiniSPEC	07 12 10	Bituminous Sheet Waterproofing	Updated
MiniSPEC	07 21 10	Board Insulation	Updated
MiniSPEC	07 21 15	Blanket Insulation	Updated
MiniSPEC	07 21 25	Blown Insulation	Updated
MiniSPEC	07 24 10	Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems	Updated
MiniSPEC	07 26 20	Subgrade Membrane - Gas Barrier	Updated
MiniSPEC	07 27 10	Air Barriers	Updated
MiniSPEC	07 31 10	Asphalt Shingling	Updated
MiniSPEC	07 31 20	Wood Shingle and Shake Roofing	Updated
MiniSPEC	07 46 10	Metal and Plastic Siding	Updated
MiniSPEC	07 46 20	Wood Siding	Updated
MiniSPEC	07 50 03	Preparation for Re-Roofing	Updated
MiniSPEC	07 51 10	Built-up Asphalt Roofing - Conventional	Updated
MiniSPEC	07 52 11	SBS/APP Modified Bitumen - Conventional Roofing	Updated
MiniSPEC	07 55 45	Built-up Asphalt Roofing - Protected Membrane	Updated
MiniSPEC	07 55 46	SBS/APP Modified Bitumen - Protected Membrane Roofing	Updated
MiniSPEC	07 62 10	Sheet Metal Flashings	Updated
MiniSPEC	07 63 10	Sheet Metal Roof Specialties	Updated
MiniSPEC	07 71 20	Manufactured Gutters and Downspouts	Updated
MiniSPEC	07 72 30	Roof Hatches	Updated
MiniSPEC	07 81 15	Cementitious Fireproofing	Updated
MiniSPEC	07 84 00	Firestopping	Updated
MiniSPEC	07 92 10	Joint Sealing	Updated
MiniSPEC	08 11 00	Standard Metal Doors and Frames	Updated
MiniSPEC	08 11 10	Standard Hollow Metal Frames	Updated
MiniSPEC	08 11 11	Standard Hollow Metal Doors	Updated
MiniSPEC	08 11 65	Metal Storm Doors And Frames	Updated
MiniSPEC	08 14 15	Flush Wood Doors	Updated
MiniSPEC	08 14 30	Stile And Rail Wood Doors	Updated
MiniSPEC	08 14 80	Closet Doors	Updated

Library	Section #	Section Name	Status
MiniSPEC	08 32 10	Sliding Glass Doors	Updated
MiniSPEC	08 35 10	Accordion Folding Doors	Updated
MiniSPEC	08 41 10	Aluminum Framed Entrances And Storefronts	Updated
MiniSPEC	08 51 10	Aluminum Windows	Updated
MiniSPEC	08 52 15	Wood Windows	Updated
MiniSPEC	08 53 15	Plastic Windows	Updated
MiniSPEC	08 62 10	Unit Skylights	Updated
MiniSPEC	08 71 10	Door Hardware - General	Updated
MiniSPEC	08 80 55	Glass And Glazing	Updated
MiniSPEC	09 21 17	Gypsum Board Assemblies	Updated
MiniSPEC	09 22 15	Non-structural Metal Stud Framing	Updated
MiniSPEC	09 24 00	Portland Cement Stucco	Updated
MiniSPEC	09 30 12	Ceramic Wall Tiling	Updated
MiniSPEC	09 30 15	Ceramic Floor Tiling	Updated
MiniSPEC	09 30 17	Quarry Tiling	Updated
MiniSPEC	09 51 10	Acoustical Panel Ceilings	Updated
MiniSPEC	09 63 10	Brick Flooring	Updated
MiniSPEC	09 64 20	Wood Parquet Flooring	Updated
MiniSPEC	09 65 15	Resilient Flooring	Updated
MiniSPEC	09 66 10	Portland Cement Terrazzo Flooring	Updated
MiniSPEC	09 67 10	Neoprene-hypalon Flooring	Updated
MiniSPEC	09 67 25	Stone Chip Flooring	Updated
MiniSPEC	09 68 25	Carpeting And Cushion	Updated
MiniSPEC	09 68 26	Carpeting By Glue Down	Updated
MiniSPEC	09 91 15	Painting	Updated
MiniSPEC	10 14 15	Signage	Updated
MiniSPEC	10 21 10	Metal Toilet Compartments	Updated
MiniSPEC	10 22 15	Wire Mesh Partitions	Updated
MiniSPEC	10 22 25	Accordion Folding Partitions	Updated
MiniSPEC	10 28 10	Toilet And Bath Accessories	Updated
MiniSPEC	10 31 10	Manufactured Fireplaces	Updated
MiniSPEC	10 56 20	Metal Wire Storage Shelving	Updated
MiniSPEC	10 73 15	Awnings	Updated
Homespec	09 68 15	Carpeting	Updated
Homespec	09 90 15	Painting	Updated
Homespec	10 32 05	Fireplace	Updated
Homespec	11 31 10	Appliances	Updated
Homespec	13 24 10	Sauna	Updated
Homespec	14 42 05	Inclined Wheelchair Stair Lifts	Updated
Homespec	22 10 11	Plumbing	Updated
Homespec	22 41 05	Plumbing Fixtures	Updated
Homespec	23 00 15	Heating And Ventilating	Updated
Homespec	23 09 15	Controls	Updated

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

CCDC 2 - 2008: Supported by CMS and MiniSPEC

Reminder: CMS and MiniSPEC Division 00 and 01 documents support the current (2008) CCDC contract forms and other documents to address their use on LEED (sustainability) projects.



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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>)
- BuildingSMART International (formerly IAI) (<http://www.buildingsmart.com>)
- Canada BIM Council (CBC) (<http://www.canbim.com>)
- 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>)
 - CSC Conference: <http://www.cscconference.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 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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