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Hot News

SpexNews gets a Facelift

As you can see from this newsletter, Digicon is getting a facelift. This is part of our "re-branding" effort, which in 2010 will highlight both our BrandedSPEC program, and our new BIMdrive software. Refer to [Digicon Undergoes a Facelift](#) for more information.

BIMdrive News

Digicon moves ahead with development of its BIMdrive software for specifications. This issue of SpexNews explains some of the impact of this work on legacy (word processing) documents – for the better. Refer to [BIMdrive News](#) for more information.

Digicon Seal Program

Digicon has developed and will implement in 2010 a "Seal" program, for manufacturers to use in their proprietary specifications, product descriptions, and MSDS sheets. The seal instills confidence in specifiers who use them. Read more at [Digicon Unveils our new SEAL](#).

Section Updates

The majority of updated sections have been 'reformatted' to enable compatibility with BIMdrive. Some target sections in CMS Divisions 07, 08, 09 have also seen technical updates. Refer to [SpecSuite News, 2010-Q1 Update](#) for additional details.

Digicon News

BIMdrive News

As announced in our last newsletter, BIMdrive is the first BIM software built for Canadian specifications. Digicon is currently developing this software, with the assistance of IRAP research funding.

As BIM software, BIMdrive will enable users to interact with specification data as though they were BIM objects. The first version of the software has been developed with 'data integrity' as our primary objective; connectivity to BIM models (for more automated links between models and the specifications) is anticipated to be added later in 2010. The fundamental requirement that specifications and drawings must complement each other, and the application of this principle to the BIM environment, is raising very interesting questions that are currently being contemplated by the BIM community at large. The international developed IFD Library movement is one critical component in the long-range solution; this topic will be covered in future articles about IFD Library and BIMdrive.

Digicon BIM Presentations

We are beginning to receive requests to present BIM topics at local CSC Chapters and with certain larger Canadian design firms; we are honoured to accept these invitations.

These presentations will address:

IFD Library: This topic explores the status of the evolving terminology standard for the BIM world. The IFD Library operates as a "group" within the buildingSMART International organization.

BIM Specifications: This topic covers the impact on specifications in BIM, from both a technology and a contractual standpoint. After a PowerPoint presentation, a sneak preview of Digicon's new BIM software user interface will be shown.

The next speaking invitation has come from CSC – Toronto Chapter trade show committee. Refer to "[Industry News](#)" in this newsletter for details.

Contact David Watson if you are interested in attending or offering a seminar at your workplace. Announcements of further dates and locations will be provided in later newsletters.

Digicon Undergoes a Facelift

Digicon has tried to diversify its business by offering quality specifications and software tools to the design community, extending our reach by offering services to manufacturers, and most recently developing our revolutionary BIMdrive technology.

In keeping with what we see as a new era in our company's growth, we have been developing a marketing campaign and decided to overhaul and upgrade our 'image' a bit. Beginning with this newsletter, you will see our new newsletter layout and upgraded logo. This of course is the beginning to seeing documents using our new "seal" program.

BrandedSPEC* News

Digicon Unveils our new SEAL

Digicon has, with the assistance of CSC and our successful Spex.ca business, built a reputation for quality specification documents and technical assistance for our specifier and manufacturer customers alike. To help instill confidence in these documents, Digicon has developed a "seal" program, where a specially designed seal can be used to "brand" manufacturers' proprietary specifications. Here's how the seal program works.



The seal will contain the year of issue and must be renewed annually (at nominal cost) by manufacturers. Use of the seal should indicate to specifiers that the specification was written by Digicon, or reviewed by Digicon and accepted that the document is current for the year dated, and that it meets our "standard of care". Of course, all specifications found on BrandedSPEC pages in Spex.ca will have this seal. An undated seal may also be used to brand product descriptions and MSDS sheets.

We hope that this program will re-assure our specifier customers (and our manufacturer's customers) that they are using current, quality proprietary specifications, MSDS sheets and product descriptions, whether they download it from Spex.ca or from a manufacturer's web site. Likewise, we will encourage manufacturers to promote the existence of this seal to specifiers as proof that their specifications are of the highest quality. Specifiers may help us encourage this program by asking the manufacturer if they are aware that these seals are available.

BrandedSPECS currently include (click on these links to browse directly to their specs and data sheets on Spex.ca):

- [All Weather Windows](#)
- [Beaver Plastics Ltd](#)
- [Henkel Canada Corp](#)
- [Owens Corning Canada Ltd](#)

*BrandedSPEC is a library of brand name (proprietary) master specifications, product descriptions and MSDS sheets, that have been specially written to specify a particular manufactured product. The cost of development and maintenance of BrandedSPEC documents is borne by the manufacturers themselves, and offered to the construction industry FREE. For more information, browse the Spex.ca BrandedSPEC Page online 24/7.

Contact Geri at 519-712-9509, or our toll-free number, for further information on our BrandedSPEC services for manufacturers or information on manufacturers for whom we have provided these documents since 1998.

Industry News

Digicon BIM Presentations

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

March 8, CSC 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 also be compatible with current CMS master specifications - Divisions 2 thru 49, which are developed and maintained by Digicon.

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 will also be 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 in 2010. 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, 2010-Q1 Update

BIMdrive Upgrade

During our development of BIMdrive, and the resulting conversion of our specification texts to the new format, we have begun a process of re-structuring all our specifications – while still maintaining consistency with our current format. These changes will be reflected in our legacy (word processing) file formats as 'improvements' in editability for our Word and WordPerfect customers.

The most noticeable change is the assembly of 'similar' units of measurement into a single option. For example:

Where we previously offered: <[12] [16] mm> <<[1/2] [5/8] inch>> gypsum board,

We will now offer: [<12 mm> <<1/2 inch>>] [<16 mm> <<5/8 inch>>] gypsum board.

The primary motivator for this change was to keep track of the actual 'values' cited, regardless of their unit of measurement. This required that we 'pair up' those measurements (they are in essence two representations of the same measurement). Another side effect of this change is that we will be able to embed smart unit conversion functionality in BIMdrive for values that our users choose to add to their projects (which may also reflect an appropriate level of tolerance).

While this change was motivated by our desire to operate in a BIM world easier, it is our opinion that this change led to a very nice side-effect – it also makes our legacy word processing text easier to read and edit.

Canadian Master Specification (CMS)

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). In addition to the BIMdrive modifications, sections in Division 7, 8, 9, 31, 32 underwent a technical update.

MiniSPEC

In this calendar quarter, we have also updated the Division 00 to 14 sections, in accordance with the BIMdrive directives discussed previously.

Sections Updated This Quarter

Updates this quarter include the following summary of specific sections.

Library	Section #	Section Name	Status
CMS	02 41 16	Structure Demolition	Updated
CMS	02 41 19	Selective Demolition	Updated
CMS	02 43 10	Structure Moving	Updated
CMS	03 01 31	Concrete Repair	Updated
CMS	03 01 32	Preparation For Resurfacing Concrete	Updated
CMS	04 03 40	Restoration Mortar	Updated
CMS	04 03 41	Masonry Restoration	Updated
CMS	04 03 42	Terra Cotta Restoration	Updated
CMS	04 03 43	Chemical Cleaning of Masonry	Updated
CMS	05 03 51	Ornamental Metal Restoration	Updated
CMS	05 53 00	Gratings and Floor Plates	Updated
CMS	05 59 13	Roof Safety Restraints	Updated
CMS	05 71 13	Fabricated Metal Spiral Stairs	Updated
CMS	06 62 00	Simulated Stone Fabrications	Updated
CMS	06 80 00	Composite Fabrications	Updated
CMS	08 03 81	Metal Window Restoration	Updated
CMS	08 12 14	Custom Hollow Metal Frames	Updated
CMS	08 13 14	Custom Hollow Metal Doors	Updated
CMS	08 14 16	Flush Wood Doors	Updated
CMS	08 14 33	Stile And Rail Wood Doors	Updated
CMS	08 33 23	Overhead Coiling Doors	Updated
CMS	08 33 26	Overhead Coiling Grilles	Updated
CMS	08 34 55	Detention Doors and Frames	Updated
CMS	08 35 13	Accordion Folding Doors	Updated
CMS	08 36 13	Sectional Doors	Updated
CMS	08 41 13	Aluminum Framed Entrances and Storefronts	Updated
CMS	08 42 33	Revolving Door Entrances	Updated
CMS	08 43 53	Glass and Spandrel Glazing	Updated

Library	Section #	Section Name	Status
CMS	08 44 13	Glazed Aluminum Curtain Walls	Updated
CMS	08 44 23	Glass Curtain Wall - Planar Glass Supports	Updated
CMS	08 44 25	Suspended Glass Assembly	Updated
CMS	08 45 23	Translucent Panel Wall and Roof Assemblies	Updated
CMS	08 52 10	Wood Windows	Updated
CMS	08 53 10	Plastic Windows	Updated
CMS	08 61 16	Wood Roof Windows	Updated
CMS	08 62 00	Unit Skylights	Updated
CMS	08 63 00	Metal Framed Skylights	Updated
CMS	08 71 43	Automatic Door Operators	Updated
CMS	08 83 00	Mirrors	Updated
CMS	08 87 53	Security Films	Updated
CMS	09 03 93	Ornamental Plaster Restoration	Updated
CMS	09 03 94	Tile Restoration	Updated
CMS	09 03 95	Terrazzo Restoration	Updated
CMS	09 21 30	Gypsum Board - Vinyl Faced	Updated
CMS	09 21 40	Gypsum Board - Shaft Wall	Updated
CMS	09 22 13	Metal Furring And Lathing	Updated
CMS	09 23 10	Gypsum Plastering	Updated
CMS	09 24 23	Portland Cement Stucco	Updated
CMS	09 26 13	Gypsum Veneer Plaster	Updated
CMS	09 30 10	Ceramic Floor Tiling	Updated
CMS	09 30 11	Ceramic Wall Tiling	Updated
CMS	09 30 35	Cut Natural Stone Tile	Updated
CMS	09 54 23	Linear Metal Ceilings	Updated
CMS	09 54 51	Curved Profile Ceiling Suspension Assembly	Updated
CMS	09 58 00	Integrated Ceiling Assemblies	Updated
CMS	09 63 13	Brick Flooring	Updated
CMS	09 63 41	Stone Unit Finishes	Updated
CMS	09 64 23	Wood Parquet Flooring	Updated
CMS	09 64 26	Hardwood Flooring - Adhesive Applied	Updated
CMS	09 64 27	Hardwood Flooring - Nailed	Updated
CMS	09 66 13	Portland Cement Terrazzo Flooring	Updated
CMS	09 66 23	Resinous Matrix Terrazzo Flooring	Updated
CMS	09 67 14	Urethane Flooring	Updated
CMS	09 67 15	Neoprene-hypalon Flooring	Updated
CMS	09 67 20	Stone Chip Flooring	Updated
CMS	09 67 23	Resinous Flooring	Updated
CMS	09 67 30	Vinyl Chip Flooring	Updated
CMS	09 68 13	Tile Carpeting	Updated
CMS	09 69 19	Stringerless Access Flooring	Updated
CMS	09 72 16	Vinyl-Coated Fabric Wall Coverings	Updated
CMS	09 84 10	Acoustic Wall Treatment	Updated
CMS	09 96 59	High Build Glazed Coatings	Updated
CMS	09 96 66	Aggregate Wall Coatings	Updated
CMS	09 96 90	Sheet Plastic Wall Covering	Updated
CMS	09 97 30	Powder Coating	Updated
CMS	12 21 14	Horizontal Louver Blinds	Updated
CMS	12 21 15	Vertical Louver Blinds	Updated
CMS	12 22 16	Drapery Track and Accessories	Updated
CMS	12 24 00	Window Roller Shades	Updated
CMS	12 48 43	Floor Mats	Updated
CMS	31 09 17	Pile Load Tests	Updated
CMS	31 31 16	Termite Control	Updated
CMS	31 32 14	Cement Soil Stabilization	Updated

Library	Section #	Section Name	Status
CMS	31 32 15	Lime Soil Stabilization	Updated
CMS	31 32 19	Geosynthetic Soil Stabilization	Updated
CMS	31 37 10	Riprap	Updated
CMS	31 51 19	Soil Anchors	Updated
CMS	31 62 14	Prestressed Concrete Piles	Updated
CMS	31 62 16	Steel Sheet Piling	Updated
CMS	31 62 19	Timber Piles	Updated
CMS	31 63 16	Auger Cast Grout Piles	Updated
CMS	31 63 25	Pressure Injected Footings	Updated
CMS	31 63 29	Drilled Concrete Piers	Updated
CMS	32 01 14	Pavement Routing and Crack Sealing	Updated
CMS	32 01 16	Flexible Paving Rehabilitation	Updated
CMS	32 12 37	Asphalt Pavement Sealing	Updated
CMS	32 13 12	Concrete Medians, Driveways and Swales	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 17 24	Painted Pavement Markings	Updated
CMS	32 17 26	Thermo-Plastic Pavement Markings	Updated
CMS	32 31 00	Chain Link Fences and Gates	Updated
CMS	32 31 40	Electronic Security Gate	Updated
CMS	32 84 10	Landscape Irrigation	Updated
MiniSPEC	00 - 14	Architectural Sections – Divisions 00 to 14	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.

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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