



Knowledge for Creating
and Sustaining
the Built Environment

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CSI to End Support of *MasterFormat*[™] 95 on December 31, 2009

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (June 29, 2009) – The Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) announced that the organization will cease to license and support *MasterFormat*[™] 95 as of December 31, 2009.

The CSI Board of Directors voted to stop licensing and supporting *MasterFormat* 95 during its June 16, 2009, meeting at the CSI Annual Convention in Indianapolis.

“Now that the new edition has been widely accepted by the industry, we felt it was time to complete the transition to *MasterFormat*[™] 2004,” said CSI Executive Director and CEO Walter Marlowe, P.E., CSI, CAE. “As a result, CSI and Construction Specifications Canada (CSC) will no longer support *MasterFormat* 95 after December 31, 2009.”

In 2004, CSI and CSC introduced the most significant updates to *MasterFormat* since the standard was introduced in the 1960s. To meet the industry’s changing needs, *MasterFormat* 2004 edition features an expanded structure, increasing the number of divisions from 16 to 50, and replaces the five-digit system from previous editions with a six-digit system. It was expanded to accommodate the many new technologies and building practices introduced since its inception and to provide more complete coverage for all types of construction projects.

MasterFormat has long been recognized as a standard in the construction industry to organize project manuals and detailed cost information, and to relate drawing notes to specifications. It aids project delivery by facilitating communication among architects, engineers, specifiers, contractors, suppliers and other consultants, which helps them meet building owners’ requirements, timelines and budgets. By fostering fuller and more detailed construction specifications, *MasterFormat* is designed to reduce costly changes or delays in projects due to incomplete, misplaced or missing information.

Many high-profile public agencies, companies, A/E firms, consultants and others have made the switch to the latest edition of *MasterFormat*, but there are still organizations that have not made the transition. Using two different versions of *MasterFormat* makes it difficult to correctly classify work results and communicate project information. The continued use of *MasterFormat* 95 and earlier versions also hinders industry standardization and works contrary to interoperability.

CSI and CSC are working with the *MasterFormat* Sponsors to communicate the decision to the industry, promote the benefits of using to the latest version through a communication campaign and transition their products that use *MasterFormat*.

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For more information on *MasterFormat*, please visit www.masterformat.com. *MasterFormat 2004* edition is available for purchase on the Web site. Access to real-time updates, a transition guide and a tool to convert *MasterFormat 95* numbers to the latest version also are available.

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About CSI

CSI is a national association dedicated to creating standards and formats to improve construction documents and project delivery. The organization is unique in the industry in that its members are a cross-section of specifiers, architects, engineers, contractors and building materials suppliers. The organization has 146 chapters and more than 14,000 members. Monthly Chapter meetings allow members the opportunity to communicate openly with their counterparts and exchange information for successful project management. CSI is renowned in the industry for its rigorous certification programs for professionals seeking to improve their knowledge of accurate and concise construction documents. CSI provides continuing education, professional conferences and product shows. For more information, visit www.csinet.org, or call (800) 689-2900.

About the MasterFormat Sponsors Program

The *MasterFormat* Sponsors are firms that make extensive use of *MasterFormat* in their product and have joined with CSI and CSC to support the ongoing updating and expansion of *MasterFormat* to address comments received and changes in technology. The *MasterFormat* Sponsors also support the *MasterFormat* Web site: www.masterformat.com. Current Sponsors are ARCOM, Building Systems Design (BSD), Construction Sciences Research Foundation (CSRF), Industrial Info Resources (IIR), McGraw-Hill Construction and Reed Construction Data. For more information on the *MasterFormat* Sponsors program, contact Professional & Technical Services Director Roger Grant, CSI, at rgrant@csinet.org.