



the PARAMETER

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL VIRGINIA CHAPTER CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS INSTITUTE

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2015

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Our programs are held upstairs at Wild Wings Cafe! Parking is free if you note your space number and give it to the host. The program will start at 4:00 p.m. to be followed by a happy hour at 5:00. We encourage anyone interested to continue the conversation over dinner. "2 Fer Tuesday" includes 'buy 8 get 8' wings and happy hour specials run from 4:00 - 7:00 pm. Be sure to come join us the FIRST Tuesday of the month!

September 1, 2015
at Wild Wings Cafe
3:00 CVCSI Board Meeting
4:00 Scheduled Program
5:00 Happy Hour

Program: free of charge

SEPTEMBER'S PROGRAM -

EFFECTIVE USE OF POINT CLOUD DATA IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY *by Phil Lutz with STRATISCAN LLC*

4 Points of Emphasis

1. Attendees will be given a background in laser scanning technology and point cloud deliverables as they are commonly used in the construction industry.
2. Attendees will learn how to import point clouds and use them efficiently within Autodesk design software (AutoCAD & Revit) - topics covered will be relevant to other software platforms as well.
3. Attendees will learn some common mistakes and pitfalls to watch out for when working with point clouds.
4. Attendees will learn the basics of contracting with a scanning professional to ensure the deliverable satisfies the specific project needs.

*September 1, 2015 from 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
upstairs at Wild Wings Cafe, 820 West Main Street, Charlottesville*

OTHER UPCOMING PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

OCTOBER - INTEGRATING BIM INTO YOUR BUSINESS

NOVEMBER - SHEAR WALL DESIGN USING WOOD

DECEMBER - TECHNICAL TILE

AND DON'T FORGET TO VISIT CSINET.ORG

<http://www.csinet.org/Main-Menu-Category/Education/Webinars>
for upcoming webinars including this FREE session -

8/26 FREE Webinar: TPO Performance and Induction Welding Best Practices

As TPO continues to rise as a top selling membrane in the industry because of its ease of installation and cost effectiveness, it is important to understand this product's long term performance and history in the market. Sponsor: Johns Manville.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2014-2015 BOARD MEMBERS

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MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

AUGUST

Justin Shimp 8/31/2013

SEPTEMBER

Robert Bowman 9/04/2008

George Gercke 9/30/1987

Michael Shaner 9/01/1994



CSI is so much more than the authority on construction documents and best practices in specifications writing. Our organization represents the perfect intersection of all roles in the greater building industry - owners, property/facilities managers, developers, architects, engineers, contractors, builders, fabricators, manufacturers, etc. CSI provides a forum for all of these voices and offers the opportunity to unite

together to understand other perspectives, share our knowledge and learn from others.

In my upcoming term as the Central Virginia Chapter President, I hope to encourage our collective sharing of experience and expand the chapter's educational offerings so that ultimately we can improve the work we do as a community.

Please come join us the first Tuesday of each month for our monthly program. Our programs begin at 4pm upstairs at Wild Wing Cafe and run until 5:00 pm. We encourage people to stay afterward and continue the conversation over some food & drink. Wild Wing Cafe runs a special on Tuesdays - buy 8 [wings], get 8 [free]- so if you like wings, you can even save money while you network!

We have some great programs lined up for this coming year and are also always open to suggestions. Come on by - and bring a friend - we look forward to seeing you!

Annette M. P. McDaniels
Central Virginia Chapter President

CONSTRUCT 2015

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY

ST. LOUIS, MO

EDUCATION: SEPT. 30-OCT. 3

EXPO: OCT. 1-2



WHY ATTEND CONSTRUCT?

CONSTRUCT offers a relevant, accredited education program, an expansive exhibit hall floor filled with the latest services, products and technologies, as well as a myriad of networking opportunities. In conjunction with the CSI Annual Convention, the event is coupled with technical tours, activities and special events. CONSTRUCT is the only dedicated national event specifically designed to provide the commercial building team real-world, practical product and education solutions.

Find hundreds of exhibitors with the newest trends and practices on the show floor and, with non-conflicting hours, attend the relevant accredited courses. The education program sessions, taught by experts, offer AIA LUs and HSWs and GBCI CE. Unparalleled networking opportunities include the Welcome Reception, the CSI Night Out, CSI Chapter Host events, a day filled with education and activities specifically for Students and Young Professionals and many other social events.

“ CONSTRUCT is the one show that brings the entire design and construction team together to learn from each other and understand each point of view. It's an invaluable learning experience. ”
—David Stutzman, AIA, CSI, CCS, SCIP, LEED AP Principal

Tell me again, part 1

by Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI, CCA, CCCA, CSC

I'm sure you've heard the Army way of presenting information: Tell them what you're going to tell them; tell them; tell them what you told them.

While that may be a practical way of doing some things, it has no place in construction documents. For those, we have a different rule: Say it once in the right place. I think it's safe to say that specifiers believe this rule, though convincing those who create the drawings is difficult; the result often is that the specifications may state things but once, while it's common for drawings to repeat things many times, and it's also common for drawing notes to repeat what is stated in the specifications.

So what's the big deal? Why not repeat things? I believe the intent is good, and that everyone working on drawings or specifications simply wants to make sure the contractor knows what is needed. That's the theory, but what really happens? In the next couple of articles, we're going to look at unintentional redundancies.

Let's start with specifications; it's quite common for a specification section to say the same thing twice. Here's an example I have used when teaching specification writing classes. It's from a specification I found online, but the same problems are found in manufacturers' specifications and in commercial guide specifications.

- 2.02 Materials
- A. Flat roof board insulation: Extruded polystyrene board to ASTM C578, Type IV, rigid, closed cell type.
1. Thermal resistance (ASTM C518): R-5 per 1 inch of thickness.
 2. Board size: 24" x 96".
 3. Board thickness: As indicated on the Drawings.
 4. Compressive strength (ASTM D1621): Minimum 25 psi.
 5. Water absorption: 0.7% by volume maximum.
 6. Edges: Square.
 7. Water vapor permeance (ASTM E96): Maximum 1.1 perms.

That looks pretty good, right? Not really. Here's the problem: Much of the information in the numbered paragraphs is already required by ASTM C578, and is, therefore, redundant.

2.02A. ASTM C578 – Standard Specification for Rigid, Cellular Polystyrene Thermal Insulation, is, as the title states, for rigid polystyrene insulation. The standard states that the insulation shall "have essentially closed cells." The standard also states the following requirements for Type IV insulation:

- R value: 5 per inch.
- Compressive strength: Minimum 25 psi.
- Water vapor permeance: Maximum 1.1 perms.

The stated water absorption is a bit of a mystery; ASTM C578 allows only 0.3 percent, while the specification allows 0.7 percent. I can't tell if this is a typo, or if it's measured by the same standard.

If we remove the redundancies, along with 2.02A.3 – a needless statement – we're left with this:

- A. Flat roof board insulation: ASTM C578, Type IV.
1. Board size: 24" x 96".
 2. Edges: Square.

And that could be further reduced to a single statement. The usual objection I get is, "So what? What's a few extra words? They're correct, aren't they?"

They are, but why are the requirement restated? Doing so adds nothing; more important, one could argue that because only those performance criteria are stated, the specifier doesn't care about the other things required by ASTM C578, such as density, flexural strength, dimensional stability, oxygen index, the test temperature for the R value test, or acceptable defects. Part of the problem is that specifiers often state requirements that don't matter, simply because they're in a manufacturer's specification.

The usual counter is, "Of course we want all that, too. The contractor has to provide it because it's part of the standard." If that's the argument, then why list any of the properties required by the standard?

Another argument is that specifying those properties makes it easier to review submittals. I suppose that's true, but again I ask, what about the other properties?

Another problem with restating parts of the reference standard is that doing so introduces another possibility for conflict. In this case, it's quite possible that the specified water absorption is a typo. Another possible problem arises when a person unfamiliar with the standard changes the Type, say, from Type IV to Type V, and doesn't change the compressive strength.

Virtually any reference standard contains a multitude of requirement, some stated, some incorporated by reference. Their value lies in the fact that requiring compliance with them automatically makes the entire standard part of the contract documents. Selectively restating selected parts of those standards is not only unnecessary, but it suggests that the few things cited are the only ones that are important.

Another redundancy in specification sections is created when a manufacturer's instructions are included in the section. A simple "Comply with manufacturer's instructions" makes those instructions part of the contract documents. It also avoids problems created by incorrect copying, and by changes in the manufacturer's instructions.

Further complicating the issue is the fact that different manufacturers may well have different instructions. If a specification section is based on Really Great Coatings Super Stuff, which is applied at 30 mils, but you get Coatings-R-U's, which goes on at 60 mils, the specification is simply wrong. You could address the problem by specifying requirement for one product, followed by "Or other as required by manufacturer" but why not take it a step further, and simply require compliance with the manufacturer's instructions?

Of course, your personal experience may have been that you want something other than what the manufacturer requires. If that's the case, you may be justified in changing the manufacturer's instructions. Be aware, though, that if something goes awry, the contractor may well blame the problem on you.

Next time, we'll look at how specifications frequently repeat requirements stated in Division 00 and in Division 01.

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Agree? Disagree? Leave your comments at
<http://swconstructivethoughts.blogspot.com/>