

RCI AND MASTERFORMAT™ 2004

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As a species, humans are quite successful at adaptation; but as individuals, we are occasionally overwhelmed by change. Before taking time to truly examine the facts, I regarded the impending regime change of CSI's MasterFormat™ 95 Divisions 1 to 16 to MasterFormat™ 2004 Divisions 1 to 50 as overwhelming and doubted very much that such extravagance was warranted. One important reality to face, however, is that the procurement infrastructures of most major organizations, governmental agencies, manufacturers, and vendors will adopt MasterFormat™ 2004.

For those readers whose main domain is in building enclosure design, the new MasterFormat™ 2004 will not pose big challenges. Most roofing and waterproofing projects require a limited selection of MasterFormat™ Divisions. Those Divisions commonly focus on Division 7 (Moisture and Thermal) with the usual support from Division 1 (General Requirements) and often some immediately related structural elements, accessories and finishes that are covered in:

- Division 2 – Site Work
- Division 3 – Concrete
- Division 4 – Masonry
- Division 5 – Steel
- Division 6 – Wood
- Division 8 – Doors and Windows - (including skylights)
- Division 9 – Finishes
- Division 15 – Plumbing (usually drainage or related to rooftop HVAC)
- Division 16 – Electrical (usually to support HVAC involved in reroofing)

Divisions 10 through 14 are typically not included in such projects, since they involve specialized systems within the building.

The subject matter of Divisions 15 and

16 are now spread through 20 to 29, and Division 2 (MF 95) is now expanded through Divisions 30 to 39. Divisions 40 to 50 are devoted to constructing manufacturing facilities and have incorporated many of the heavy items previously in Division 11. This large reorganization undertaken by CSI is intended to sort out the industry and make room for expansion as the future brings us new categories.

The major departures from MasterFormat™ 95 are:

1. Changing the focus of the technical sections from products to what are termed "Work Results." Think of 24 Gage Galvanized Sheet Metal Framing, 2SSS4 Gage Galvanized Sheet Metal Flashing, and 24 Gage Galvanized Sheet Metal Duct as utilizing very similar materials, but towards a very different end and are therefore specified in different divisions. Although this may not seem like much of a revelation, it recognizes that the construction products industry provides for other materials that can be specified alongside if they accomplish similar results. This will make the task of both the designer and contractor simpler in a fundamental way.
2. Sorting the Divisions into two groups:
 - **Division 00** Procurement and Contracting Requirements Group (formerly Bidding and Conditions of the Contract Requirements)
 - **Divisions 01 - 50:** Specifications Group
3. Subdividing the Specifications group into four Subgroups:
 - **Division 01:** General Require-

ments

- **Divisions 02 - 19:** Facility Construction
- **Divisions 20 - 29:** Facility Services
- **Divisions 30 - 39:** Site and Infrastructure
- **Divisions 40 - 49:** Process Equipment

Not only are new Divisions added, old ones are renamed and even some newly created Divisions have been left blank and as yet unnamed - including the newly vacated Divisions 15 and 16, in anticipation of the development of new, undefined work results. Woe be to those who take it upon themselves to privately designate the blank Divisions, or so I have been warned. While this seemed at first to be gratuitous reorganization, further examination of the structure of these subgroups suggests that teasing out some of the sections and creating room for expansion within the subgroups will prove useful as technology shows no let-up in providing new work results and solves more and newer problems.


4. Numbers designating MasterFormat™ 2004 sections will now be six digits grouped in pairs instead of the five digits of MasterFormat™ 95.
 - **Level One** designation will be as it is currently with the first two digits. For example: **03000** will become **03 00 00** Concrete.
 - **Level Two** designation will change from use of the third digit to the third and fourth digit. For example: **03300** to **03 30 00** Cast in Place Concrete.
 - **Level Three** designation will change from the fourth digit to the fifth and sixth. For example: **03310** to **03 30 10** Structural Concrete Cast In Place.

- **Level Four** designation will change from the fifth digit to the utilizing of two additional decimal places. For example: 03315 to 03 30 10.05 Colored Structural Concrete Cast in Place.
- Additional resolution will be formatted and further definition can be achieved through the use of three-letter suffixes. For example: 03 30 30.01.HAR Colored Structural Concrete Cast in Place for a particular client, project type, or whatever enhances the organization (typically in-house or between entities having established relationships).

5. Additionally, there is a standardization of certain number pairs placed in the third and fourth position, such as: 22 XX 00 designating sets of work result.
 - 01 - Operation and Maintenance
 - 05 - Common Work Results
 - 06 - Schedules
 - 07 - Insulation
 - 08 - Commissioning

Example: 22 07 00 Plumbing Insulation

6. Room for expansion is built into MasterFormat™ 2004. CSI asks that individuals refrain from assuming usage of any of the unassigned Divisions. You can be sure that CSI is cooking up MasterFormat™ 20XX as we speak, but it is unlikely that it will entail the major level of change in transition between MasterFormat™ 95 and MasterFormat™ 2004.

In conclusion, I am making friends with the new MasterFormat™ 2004 and coming to believe its modifications are justified and that they will enhance my approach to the industry. I am taking this upheaval a bit like moving: hard, annoying, but probably worth the effort. As I sort through my old stuff and repackage it, I will tell myself to enjoy the unique opportunity to review and upgrade.... one item at a time... grumble... grumble. 

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