

# MASTERFORMAT™ 2004 EDITION [www.masterformat.com](http://www.masterformat.com)

## We've converted – how about you?



## Benefits of Making the Change to MasterFormat™ 2004:

- All the major publishers of construction data, many government agencies, and leading private organizations have made the switch to **MasterFormat 2004**
- BIM systems rely on interoperability standards such as OmniClass and the National BIM Standard, which use the latest **MasterFormat 2004** numbers
- The expanded work results basis of **MasterFormat 2004** makes it easier to assign Section Numbers and Titles to new components and assemblies



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## MasterFormat Conversion FAQs

### Q: Will there be additional revisions to MasterFormat?

**A:** *MasterFormat*™ is a “living document” and is regularly updated. A standing CSI/CSC Task Team is responsible for monitoring, updating and expanding the content. Users can easily obtain updates and submit recommendations for new section numbers and titles at [www.masterformat.com](http://www.masterformat.com).

### Q: How does the 2004 Edition of MasterFormat work with BIM?

**A:** *MasterFormat* is an important component of the National BIM Standard for North America under development by the National Institute of Building Sciences through buildingSMART North America. *OmniClass*, *MasterFormat*, and *UniFormat* are all used to index, organize, and retrieve a variety of information types throughout a project life cycle. The consistent use of standard classifications and their application to objects enhances users' ability to sort data and roll up or drill down through data. A standard implementation of any of these classifications within a BIM model allows for this same information sorting and retrieval across multiple platforms and by all users at any stage in the facility life cycle.

### Q: How does MasterFormat 2004 fit into the CSI suite of formats?

**A:** *MasterFormat* is part of a system of formats developed by CSI/CSC to organize project manuals and all the information used in the building process. These formats are changing and evolving over time to meet the changing needs of industry.

### Q: Why did MasterFormat™ need updating?

**A:** The 2004 edition of *MasterFormat*™ was intended to make the document better serve its original purpose, as a classification structure to organize project manuals used in construction. The changes were made based on general observations of the industry:

- A proliferation of various versions of “Division 17” that were developed in building automation and controls, information technology systems, communications, railroad construction, subway construction, and heavy civil engineering. This indicated that *MasterFormat* 1995 was not meeting the needs of the industry.
- *MasterFormat* 1995 was overcrowded in many Divisions.
- In part because of this overcrowding, *MasterFormat* 1995 was losing the ability to adequately address the needs of building engineering and facility services.
- *MasterFormat* 1995 did not adequately address facility management and operations activities for the whole life cycle of construction projects.
- *MasterFormat* 1995 did not adequately address the needs of construction other than building construction, such as civil engineering or construction for process engineering.
- *MasterFormat* 1995 did not adequately address electronic communications and controls.
- *MasterFormat* 1995 had inconsistencies in its structure and organization.
- *MasterFormat* 1995 had in some Divisions become more of a product listing system than a system for organizing project manuals, as was originally intended.

### Q: I need help converting!

**A:** CSI provides the following resources:

- Order *MasterFormat* 2004 Edition in CSI's online store at [www.csinet.org/store](http://www.csinet.org/store) - the document includes a full transition matrix to both the 1995 and 1988 editions of *MasterFormat*
- Visit [www.masterformat.com](http://www.masterformat.com) for an online transition tool
- Download the numbers & titles (PDF) at [www.csinet.org/masterformat](http://www.csinet.org/masterformat)
- Ask a question in CSI's *MasterFormat* Forum at [www.csinet.org/forums](http://www.csinet.org/forums)
- Find a *MasterFormat* expert to invite to your office in CSI's Speaker Database at [www.csinetnet.org/speakers](http://www.csinetnet.org/speakers)
- Request *MasterFormat* 2004 bookmarks to handout in your office or at your CSI event from [csi@csinet.org](mailto:csi@csinet.org)
- Hear the “What's My Number” AudioCast or the “Using *MasterFormat*” AudioCast at [audio.csinet.org](http://audio.csinet.org)



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