

Comments from Royce West, Little Rock District (501)324-5268

Listed below are comments concerning the A/E/C CADD standards.

1. Is the standard mandatory, are parts of it mandatory or is it up to each District to decide if they want to use the standard?

Response: When Release 1.4 was distributed, a letter was sent throughout the Corps (EC 25-1-243) mandating those standards over the previous Corps standards (EM 1110-1-1807). When Release 1.7 is distributed, a new letter will have to be sent out mandating the latest update.

2. Page 10, Table 6. Which sheet size do we use of the three, ISO, ANSI equivalent, or Architectural equivalent. While they are similar, there is enough difference to cause discussion at this office. We would prefer to build only one title block and border sheet.

Response: The three different assortments of sheet sizes were provided to match CSI's UDS document. The ISO sheets are metric size sheets, while the ANSI and Architectural equivalent present Imperial sheet sizes. It is really up to the site as to what size sheet they plot their drawings out on, but at the very least, they should have a set of both metric and imperial border sheets.

3. Page 25. "A sheet file is the combination...CADD file." Provide some info concerning the information that may actually be written in a sheet file. A specific legend for the sheet, sheet number, etc, or is this information that belongs within the eight reserved levels of the model file or does it belong within the border sheet? If each discipline uses the same border sheet, how does that work?

Response: Sheet files are the culmination of referenced model files (including the border sheet) and sheet-specific information. This sheet-specific information would include items such as sheet number, north arrow, keyplan hatching, designer names, etc. This information is not included within the eight levels/layers associated with model files. Rather, a sheet file is started that includes levels/layers similar to those model file layers and the required model files are referenced to that file. All disciplines should use the same border sheet as a model file. The Center will try to present this better in the final of Release 1.7.

4. The Tri-Service Optional file naming convention uses the first two characters for a project code. This limits the number of codes to 520 (Alpha-numeric, numeric-alpha, B6 or 6B). We have used many more than that at this office. We use the first 4 characters, position 1 and 2 as the location code, 3 and 4 as the project code for the location.

Example:

Greers Ferry RG, first project A0 project name RGA0, second project A1, project name RGA1, etc

Response: The Tri-Service Center recommends that the provided User Definable characters at the end of the model file name are used to distinguish items, such as location.

5. Current operating systems allow more characters than 8 for file names. The standard could be much more flexible if just a few more characters were added to the naming system. Add two (or three) to the current project code and one to the model user defined field and one to the sheet sequence identifier. This bumps the total characters to 11 or 12 and allows the sheet sequence identifier to go over 99 if needed.

Our sample Greers Ferry project code: RGA0MFP101.DGN Here we have replaced the user defined X with an additional numeric for sheet sequence identifier. The X could be reinserted into the name if needed to represent something “standard”, RGA0MFP101X.DGN. We also use a directory structure for the projects based upon the first 4 characters. Directory RG, subdirectories RGA0, RGA1, RGA2, etc., Directory MP, subdirectories MPA0, MPA1, MPA2, etc.

Response: Not all sites have operating systems capable varying from the 8.3 DOS filename limitation. Therefore the standards will continue to recommend a filenaming convention that fits within this limitation. Further delineation of a project using Folders or Subdirectories could be a way to fulfill site requirements.

6. Status field. If districts exchange drawings (it does happen and every other districts drawings are always wrong) this status field should be consistent. We have district xyz drawings and their new walls are on layer a-wall and our existing walls to remain are on a-wall. Make this universal for either existing or new walls and nail it down . Example: universal existing walls, a-wall, new wall is a-wall-neww or fill the status field for both, a-wall-exst, a-wall-neww.

Response: When starting a design project, a determination has to be made as to whether most of the work will be existing or most of the work will be new. Once this determination is made, the level/layer tables in the standards will be used to draw those items. Other items will be drawn using the status levels/layers contained in each model file. Creating separate levels for A-WALL-EXST, A-WALL-NEWW, etc. would quickly deplete MicroStation's limitation of 63 levels per design file.

7. GIS-Related Symbols: Instead of making someone request a separate set of CDs, why not include the symbols and reference the fact as currently stated concerning these symbols.

Response: The Tri-Service Center will look into whether these symbols could fit on the final Release 1.7 CD.

8. Could not find information on workspace as referenced on page 43 at <http://tsc.wes.army.mil>.

Response: There will be a link to the workspaces when the final Release 1.7 becomes available.

9. Could not find information on data encyclopedia as referenced on page 45 at <http://www.usace.army.mil/programs/dataencyc/encyc.html>.

Response: The URL given is incorrect. The correct URL is <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/data-encyc/>.

10. Develop a good user interface to allow users to use the standards with a marginal amount of work or thought. If this is done the standards should be mandatory or they will be of little use as people attempt to work their way through the vast avenues of layer, level assignments and names.

Response: Concur. Hopefully the workspaces provided with the final release will solve a lot of these problems and make the standards easier to mandate.