

Notes from the Spec Coach®

MasterFormat for Hardware Manufacturers

For the last couple of years, you've probably heard some grumbings about a new numbering system for construction specifications. You may actually have been involved in a construction project that has use the new numbering. It didn't have a Division 15 or 16, but why should you care? You're only interested in the hardware section in Division 08, and apart from giving it a goofy name, nothing much changed. Right?

In actual fact the new name for Division 08 is Openings, which works pretty well with the name of this journal. The other thing that happened to the system is that specification sections now have an expanded number rather than the five-digit number that you've been used to.

Division 08 still has the same major headings. (See Figure 1)

Of course maybe you are enlightened enough to realize that all of the security and access hardware and information that was in the old Division 16 is now mostly in the new Division 28. So maybe you need to look at that as well

Regardless of where the information that you are looking for is located, you now have to deal with more than five digits in the specification section number. If you've

worked on a project that uses the new numbering system, then it's probably been fairly easy for you because up until now, most projects have gone from five digit numbers to six digit numbers with the numbers being shown in pairs, so that you may have found that a section related to facility security was **28 16 43 - Perimeter Security Systems** What you are probably going to be faced with in the future is section numbers that in some cases have eight digits. You'll find that the first three pairs of numbers are separated by spaces, but the next pair of numbers is separated from the main six digit group by a decimal point, a period, a dot, whatever you want to call it. An example in Division 28 could be for something like **28 16 33.13 - Intrusion Detection Interfaces to Remote Monitoring.**

Doors and Windows (1995)	Openings (2004)
	Operations and Maintenance of Openings
Basic Door and Window Materials and Methods	Common Work Results for Openings
Metal Doors and Frames	Doors and Frames
Wood and Plastic Doors	
Specialty Doors	Specialty Doors and Frames
Entrances and Storefronts	Entrances, Storefronts, and Curtainwalls
Windows	Windows
Skylights	Roof Windows and Skylights
Hardware	Hardware
Glazing	Glazing
Glazed Curtainwall	Louvers and Vents

Figure 1 - Division 08 Comparison

You may find that in many cases there are project manuals with a mixture of both six and eight digit numbering. The computer doesn't care, it will still file things in the right order as long as the style of numbering and the "pair separators" is consistent.

The new numbering is set up in such a way to provide unlimited expansion through granularity. This can work very well for manufacturers in the industry if they want to use the system for keeping track of different products related to particular specification sections.

If we go back to the simple example of the sections related to hardware we can hypothetically look at what a manufacturer may be faced with. If we look at all the simple things associated with Door Hardware, you'll find in *MasterFormat™ 2004* (the granddaddy of the spec numbering system), that the number for Door Hardware is 08 71 00. The system recommends that we use section names with corresponding section numbers. If we want to deal with hardware for metal doors, there is no assigned number or title we can therefore, at the risk of having "our" number reassigned at a later date choose a six digit number. Let's choose 08 71 15.

We may now have the dilemma that we have hardware for exterior doors, and hardware for interior doors. At this point we could go to two eight digit (Level 4) numbers. This could result in 08 71 15.07 - Exterior Metal door Hardware, and 08 71 15.09 - Interior Metal Door Hardware.

08 71 15 - Metal Door Hardware
08 71 15.07 - Exterior Metal Door Hardware
08 71 15.09 - Interior Metal Door Hardware
08 71 15.09.01 - Brass Hinges
08 71 15.09.02 - Steel Hinges
08 71 15.09.03 - Steel Butt Hinges
08 71 15.09.04 - Bronze Hinges
08 71 15.09.05 - Stainless Steel Hinges
08 71 15.09.05 - Stainless Steel Butt Hinges

Figure 2 - Manufacturer's Inventory

Finally, as a manufacturer you may have multiple types of hardware for each category and end up listing them using level 5 numbers within your inventory. (See Figure 2)

On the whole, although the new numbering system is going to take a bit of getting used to, it is going to be of great benefit to the industry. The people who become familiar with it first, will have an advantage over their competitors since they will better understand the bidding system, they will know where to look for information pertaining to their areas of expertise or products and will, if manufacturers or installers be able to bid more accurately. More accurate pricing means more profits. It may not mean more profit on the first job, it may only mean a cheaper job for the client, but they're going to come back and that of course means more profit.

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