



CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY COUNCIL
建造業議會

BIM



CIC BIM Dictionary

(in line with ISO 19650)
December 2020

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Document Revision Tracking

Issue Date	Notes
December 2020	

Foreword

I am glad to see the release of **Construction Industry Council (CIC) Building Information Modelling (BIM) Dictionary in December 2020**, which has been long awaited ever since the publication of CIC BIM Standards – General in 2015. This CIC BIM Dictionary shall be read in conjunction with the CIC BIM Standard - General (Version 2 – December 2020) which in line with ISO 19650. The common abbreviations and terms found in the following publications have been included in this BIM Dictionary.

- (i) CIC BIM Standards for Architecture and Structural Engineering (Version 2 – December 2020);
- (ii) CIC BIM Standards for Underground Utilities (August 2019);
- (iii) CIC BIM Standards for Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (August 2019);
- (iv) CIC BIM Standards for Preparation of Statutory Plan Submissions (December 2020); and
- (v) CIC Production of BIM Objects Guide – General Requirements (August 2019).

The CIC has been developing the other CIC BIM documentations for contractual uses:

- CIC BIM Exchange Information Requirements (EIR) Template (BIM Specifications);
- CIC Special Conditions of Contract for BIM for incorporating into existing construction contracts and consultancy agreements for implementing BIM in construction projects; and
- CIC BIM Services Agreements for procuring BIM services under different contractual relationships.

We welcome feedback on the BIM Dictionary from practitioners. Feedback received subsequent to the issuance of this publication would be considered in future revision.

On behalf of the CIC, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the making of this BIM Standards, in particular to the members of the Task Force on BIM Standards.

Ar. Ada FUNG, BBS

Chairperson

Committee on Building Information Modelling

Construction Industry Council

December 2020

Preface

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) is committed to seeking continuous improvement in all aspects of the construction industry in Hong Kong. To achieve this aim, the CIC forms Committees, Task Forces and other forums to review specific areas of work with the intention of producing Alerts, Reference Materials, Guidelines and Codes of Conduct to assist participants in the industry to strive for excellence.

The CIC appreciates that some improvements and practices can be implemented immediately whilst others may take more time for implementation. It is for this reason that four separate categories of publication have been adopted, the purposes of which are as follows:

Alerts	The Alerts are reminders in the form of brief leaflets produced quickly to draw the immediate attention of relevant stakeholders to the need to follow some good practices or to implement some preventive measures in relation to the construction industry.
Reference Materials	The Reference Materials are standards or methodologies generally adopted and regarded by the industry as good practices. The CIC recommends the adoption of the Reference Materials by industry stakeholders where appropriate.
Guidelines	The Guidelines provide information and guidance on particular topics relevant to the construction industry. The CIC expects all industry stakeholders to adopt the recommendations set out in the Guidelines where applicable.
Codes of Conduct	The Codes of Conduct set out the principles that all relevant industry participants should follow. Under the Construction Industry Council (Cap 587), the CIC is tasked to formulate codes of conduct and enforce such codes. The CIC may take necessary actions to ensure compliance with the codes.

If you have read this publication, we encourage you to share your feedback with us. Please take a moment to fill out the Feedback Form attached to this publication in order that we can further enhance it for the benefit of all concerned. With our joint efforts, we believe our construction industry will develop further and will continue to prosper for years to come.

Introduction

This CIC BIM Dictionary aims to apply the Abbreviations & Terminology / Glossary to all CIC BIM Standards and related publications.

CIC BIM Dictionary

Abbreviation	Term	Definition
3D	Three dimensional	The use of software tools to generate three-dimensional geometries, either as surfaces or non-parametric solids.
3D printing	Three dimensional printing	A model use representing how 3D models are used as a base to generate 3D prints either directly from within the main BIM software tool or through specialised 3D printing software.
4D BIM	Four dimensional Building Information Modelling (Time)	4D BIM refers to 3D + time. A model or a modelling workflow is considered to be 4D BIM when time is linked/embedded to model objects to allow construction scheduling.
5D BIM	Five dimensional Building Information Modelling (Cost)	5D BIM refers to 4D + cost. A model or modelling workflow is considered to be 5D BIM when cost is linked/embedded within BIM models and model components. 5D is used for the purposes of generating cost estimates and practicing target value design.
6D BIM and beyond	Six dimensional Building Information Modelling and Beyond	<p>6D BIM and beyond. Even more than cost, aspects of building performance, such as sustainability, energy, safety and acoustic, do not qualify as dimensions of BIM. They all involve functions that apply to building parts or whole and returns results similarly general. Moreover, unlike unit prices, they are represented by derivative data, such as thermal values, calculated on the basis of geometric and material properties. Hence, there may not be a need to define 6D BIM and beyond.</p> <p>Though as convenience, there are various definitions beyond the 5D BIM but appears to be lack of consensus. Sustainability, project lifecycle, safety, energy, construction records, procurement, facility management, as-built and as-is information have all been called the sixth dimension of BIM. Sustainability and facility manage are used frequently quoted for 6D BIM and 7D BIM respectively.</p>
AEC	Architecture, Engineering and Construction	A phrase that may be used as an alternative to describe the building construction industry.
AECO	Architecture, Engineering, Construction and Operations	An extension of the AEC acronym which includes professionals and enterprises related to the operations and maintenance of buildings and infrastructures.
AIM	Asset Information Model	Maintained information model used to manage, maintain and operate the asset; required to support an organisation's asset management system.
AIR	Asset Information Requirements	Data and information requirements of the organisation in relation to the asset(s) it is responsible for.
AM	Asset Management	<p>Asset management refers to a systematic approach to the governance and realisation of value responsible for, over their whole life cycles. It may apply both to tangible assets (physical objects such as buildings or equipment) and to intangible assets (such as human capital, intellectual property, goodwill or financial assets). It refers to the process of developing, operating, maintaining, upgrading, and disposing of assets in the most cost-effective manner (including all costs, risks and performance attributes).</p> <p>It is also increasingly used in both the business world and public infrastructure sectors to ensure a coordinated approach to the optimisation of costs, risks, service/performance and sustainability. The international standard, ISO 55000, provides an introduction and requirements specification for a management system for asset management.</p>

Abbreviation	Term	Definition
Appointing Party	Appointing Party	The "receiver of information concerning works, goods or services from a lead appointed party" refers to ISO 19650-1 (3.2.4). An appointing party might be a client, a designer, a contractor, or an asset operator/manager.
Appointed Party	Appointed Party	The "provider of information concerning works, goods or services" refers to ISO 19650-1 (3.2.3).
API	Application Programming Interface	An application programming interface (API) is a computing interface which defines interactions between multiple software intermediaries. It defines the kinds of calls or requests that can be made, how to make them, the data formats that should be used, the conventions to follow, etc. It can also provide extension mechanisms so that users can extend existing functionality in various ways and to varying degrees. An API can be entirely custom, specific to a component, or it can be designed based on an industry-standard to ensure interoperability.
AR	Augmented Reality	3D models combined with other technologies - allow users to experience virtual objects superimposed on top of physical objects or places. As opposed to Virtual Reality Simulation, Augmented Reality (AR) is only partial 'immersive' thus allowing images from the physical and virtual worlds to appear as one. AR is typically experienced through hand-held screens, wearables, holograms and projections.
BCF	BIM Collaboration Format	A schema used for exchanging information and model viewpoints between individuals irrespective of the software tools used. Implemented as both an XML file (bcfXML) format and a RESTful API webservice (bcfAPI), the Open BIM Collaboration Format (BCF) is typically used to highlight issues discovered during model reviews. The schema allows for the exchange of comments and images linked to specific model components through their unique Global Unique IDentifiers.
BEP (BIM PXP)	BIM Execution Plan	Document to explain how the information modelling aspects of a project will be carried out throughout the project life cycle.
BIM	Building Information Modelling	Building Information Modelling is the process of generating and managing building data during the building or assets life cycle. It is a new way of working using new technology to facilitate project management, better construction process control, cross-disciplinary collaboration, communication with external stakeholders, decision support and risk management.
BIM attribute	BIM attribute	A piece of data forming a partial description of an object or entity, where entities and objects are synonyms, meaning items having a state, behavior and unique identity, that is, a thing we can think or talk about, such as a wall.
BIM Coordinator	BIM Coordinator	A BIM Coordinator is BIM role combining model management, project information management and process management activities. Model management activities are technical in nature and focus on the generation and delivery of one or more model uses. Project information management activities focus on the inclusion / accuracy / detail of information as to meet contractual requirements. Process management activities focus on facilitating the relationship between project participants by assisting them to select collaboration workflows, delivery standards and communication protocols as best suited for each particular project, or project phase.

Abbreviation	Term	Definition
BIM Manager	BIM Manager	A BIM Role played by an individual or an organisation on behalf of the whole project team. The BIM Manager has many responsibilities which include: BIM facilitation, coordinating data-exchange activities, fulfilling pre-defined design specifications and delivery specifications, and overall model quality control.
BIM Modeller	BIM Modeller	A BIM Modeller represents a skilled BIM software modelling person with good understanding of their specific design discipline (architectural, MEP or civil and structural etc.).
BMS	Building Management System	Refer to "CCMS".
BoQ	Bills of Quantities	A Bill of Quantities is a list of quantified items of work or services required for the completion of construction works with the quantities of the work or services stated in appropriate units of measurement and with materials, workmanship, quality and standard required for the work or services fully described. "Bills of Quantities" are usually given in plural since usually there are more than one bill in a set of Bills of Quantities and more than one item in a Bill of Quantities.
bSDD	buildingSMART Data Dictionary	buildingSMART Data Dictionary (previously IFD) is a standardised terminology for data and products used in virtual design, construction and operation. bSDD identifies the multilingual names and defines the types and properties of many construction 'products' (e.g. doors, HVAC units, etc.). bSDD, Industry Foundation Classes (IFC) and the Information Delivery Manual (IDM) are at the core of buildingSMART deliverables which facilitate the process of generating, exchanging and linking open-standard BIM models to various project and product-specific data. bSDD is based on ISO 12006-3:2007.
building SMART	buildingSMART	An international organisation aiming to promote the exchange of interoperable, open and non-proprietary data between software applications used within the construction industry. buildingSMART is involved in the development of Industry Foundation Classes, buildingSMART Data Dictionary (bSDD) and the Information Delivery Manual (IDM).
CCBC	CIC-Certified BIM Coordinator	Refer to CIC website https://www.bim.cic.hk/en/certification_and_accreditation/certification_introduction
CCBM	CIC-Certified BIM Manager	Refer to CIC website https://www.bim.cic.hk/en/certification_and_accreditation/certification_introduction
CCMS	Central Control and Monitoring System	Central Control and Monitoring System (CCMS) or Building Management System (BMS) is a computer software program, usually configured in a hierarchical manner, to control, monitor and manage all the equipment installed in the building. This equipment can include heating, ventilation, cooling, security, and lighting. The monitoring facilities of a CCMS allow plant status, environmental conditioning and energy consumption etc. to be monitored and recorded. The data provides the building operator with full pictures of how the equipment is operated. This can often lead to the identification of problems and improvement on plant operation.

Abbreviation	Term	Definition
CDE	Common Data Environment	It represents the centralised digital/electronic document management system which is used for BIM collaboration, storing and exchange digital data.
CIC	Construction Industry Council	The Construction Industry Council (CIC) is a statutory body established on 1 February 2007 after the enactment of the Construction Industry Council Ordinance on 24 May 2006. The main functions of the CIC are to convey the industry's needs and aspirations to HKSARG, as well as provide a communication channel for government to solicit advice on all construction-related matters.
CNC	Computer Numeric Control	Manufacturing processes driven by computer code. CNC systems automate manufacturing tasks across many types of machinery including plasma cutters, water jets and milling machines.
COBie	Construction Operation Building information exchange	Subset of BS ISO 16739 IFC documented as a buildingSMART model view definition (MVD) which includes operational information used to supply data to the organisation to populate decision-making tools and asset management systems.
DfMA	Design for Manufacture and Assembly	A design approach aims to ease of manufacture and efficiency of assembly of a product. With the increasing use of off-site prefabrication, the construction sectors have begun to adopt DfMA. By manufacturing construction components with the most-cost-effective materials and processes at off-site facilities and assembling them at reduced cost and minimised operations on-site, a construction project can be delivered with higher quality, lower cost and lesser time.
Digital Twin	Digital Twin	A set of digital assets – models, documents and data sets - that mirror a physical asset for part/whole of the asset life cycle. In the construction industry, a digital twin typically refers to a data-rich 3D model – of a building for example - that represents, reacts to, and can cause changes in the physical twin, the actual building. Through asset coupling, the connection between the two twins can be either (i) one-way or (ii) two-way, (a) synchronous or (b) asynchronous, depending on their coupling level. Higher coupling – through two-way connectedness of BIM models with live sensors, cameras, scanners and Building Management Systems - allows a twin to adjust itself according to the information received from the other.

Abbreviation	Term	Definition
DOC	Level of Documentation	<p>The Level of Information Need for the kind of documentation is associated with the uses to meet the professional deliverables. Each task team / discipline will understand their deliverable requirements against a specific use – e.g., presentation styles such as colour, font, 2D symbols associated with certain particular drawing production, information on standard title block, etc. The Level of Information Needed use table should identify the discipline/role expected to respond and the detail will then reside within the Task Information Delivery Plan (TIDP). Professional domain knowledge must be applied to DOC as deliverables when statutory and contractual liabilities are involved.</p> <p>The kind of documentation to be associated with the uses to meet the identified requirements. Each task team will understand their deliverable requirements against a specific use.</p>
EIR	Exchange Information Requirements	<p>The "Information Requirements in relation to an Appointment" ISO 19650-2 (3.3.6) generated by an Appointing Party. The Exchange Information Requirements (EIR) is a list of requirements defined within a document, an online form, or possibly even an email message. An EIR sets out the managerial, commercial, and technical aspects as to satisfy what was defined in Project Information Requirements and Asset Information Requirements.</p>
FM	Facility Management	<p>The term Facility Management (FM) refers to the interdisciplinary activities performed during the Operation Phase of building, space or infrastructure. FM activities typically include operation, leasing occupancy, maintenance, cleaning, etc.</p>
gbXML	The Green Building XML schema	<p>The Green Building XML schema (gbXML) is an open schema developed to facilitate transfer of building data stored in BIM to engineering analysis tools. gbXML is being integrated into a range of software CAD and engineering tools and supported by leading 3D BIM vendors. gbXML is streamlined to transfer building properties to and from engineering analysis tools to reduce the interoperability issues and eliminate plan take-off time.</p>
GIS	Geographic Information System	<p>The Geographic Information System (GIS) is a conceptualised framework that provides the ability to capture and analyse spatial and geographic data. GIS applications (or GIS apps) are computer-based tools that allow the user to create interactive queries (user-created searches), store and edit spatial and non-spatial data, analyse spatial information output, and visually share the results of these operations by presenting them as maps.</p>
GPS	Global Positioning System	<p>GPS, or the Global Positioning System, is a global navigation satellite system that provides location, velocity and time synchronisation. GPS is everywhere. You can find GPS systems in your car, your smartphone and your watch.</p>
Hologram	Hologram	<p>An image that appears to be 3D and can be seen with the naked eye. Holography is the science and practice of making holograms, a photographic recording of a light field, rather than an image formed by a lens.</p>

Abbreviation	Term	Definition
IDM	Information Delivery Manuals	The formal method developed and propagated by buildingSMART to establish model view definitions as a standard requirement for exchanging model data within the construction industry. IDM is an ISO standard intended to "facilitate interoperability between software applications used in the construction process, to promote digital collaboration between actors in the construction process and to provide a basis for accurate, reliable, repeatable and high-quality information exchange" (ISO 29481-1:2010).
IFC	Industry Foundation Classes	An international specification for product data exchange and sharing for AEC/FM. IFC enables interoperability between the computer applications for AEC/FM. A subset of IFC is approved as ISO/PAS 16739.
Information Manager	Information Manager	The information manager is a procedural gate-keeper, policing the common data environment to ensure that it follows the agreed protocol and that the data is secure. They are not a BIM co-ordinator and have no design responsibility and no responsibility for clash detection or model coordination.
ISO 19650-1	ISO 19650-1	Organisation of Information about Construction Works - Information Management using Building Information Modelling - Part 1: Concepts and Principles (ISO 19650-1:2018).
ISO 19650-2	ISO 19650-2	Organisation of Information about Construction Works - Information Management using Building Information Modelling - Part 2: Delivery Phase of the Assets (19650-2:2018).
ISO 19650-3	ISO 19650-3	Organisation and digitization of information about buildings and civil engineering works, including building information modelling (BIM) - Information management using building information modelling - Part 3: Operational phase of the assets (ISO 19650-3:2020).
ISO 19650-5	ISO 19650-5	Organisation and digitization of information about buildings and civil engineering works, including building information modelling (BIM) - Information management using building information modelling - Part 5: Security-minded approach to information management (ISO 19650-5:2020).
ISO/CD 19650-4	ISO/CD 19650-4	Organisation and digitization of information about buildings and civil engineering works, including building information modelling (BIM) - Information management using building information modelling - Part 4: Information exchange (ISO/CD 19650-4).
Laser Scanning	Laser Scanning	A model use representing the process of rapid generation of point cloud data of as-built structures, terrain and vegetation using a fixed, mobile or airborne 3D laser scanner.
LOA	Level of Accuracy	Specifies the accepted level of measurement accuracy for documenting built assets. The Level of Accuracy (LOA) includes a number of metrics: Measurement Accuracy (LOA10-LOA50), Validation (A, B or C) and Representation Accuracy (Standard Deviation) [USIBD]
LOD	Level of Development	A BIM metric to identify what information to include in a model during the design and construction process. The LOD abbreviation refers to multiple terms, definitions, and numbering systems even within CICBIMS.

Abbreviation	Term	Definition
LOD-G	Level of Development - Geometry	LOD-G is the geometry representation of a model element.
LOD-I	Level of Development - Information	LOD-I is the description of non-graphical information in a model element.
LOIN	Level of Information Need	Framework which defines the extent and granularity of information.
MEP	Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing	Mechanical, electrical and plumbing (MEP), also called Building Services, refers to these aspects of building design and construction.
MiC	Modular Integrated Construction	Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) is an innovative construction method. By adopting the concept of "factory assembly followed by on-site installation". BIM makes MiC a feasible solution as it provides 3D model for team coordination, engineering analysis, simulation, prefabrication / manufacturing in factory and assembly on site. (Also refer: http://www.cic.hk/eng/main/mic/whatsmic/aboutmic/)
MIDP	Master Information Delivery Plan	A plan listing all the information deliverables of a project including models, drawings, specifications, equipment, schedules and Room Data Sheets. A Master Information Delivery Plan (MIDP) identifies when project information is to be prepared, by whom, and using what protocols and procedures. An MIDP incorporates all relevant Task Team Information Delivery Plans (TIDP)s and a updated/detailed responsibility matrix.
MR	Mixed Reality	A term combining both Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR). While VR experience allows the users to immerse themselves in a digital environment completely detached from the physical world, AR enables the digital content on top of the physical world and MR facilitates the digital content to be interactive with the physical world.
MVD	Model View Definition	A specification which identifies the properties and specifies the exchange requirements of model views. A 'standard' Model View Definition (MVD) is a subset of the Industry Foundation Classes (IFC) schema intended for software developers (not end users) to implement into their BIM software tools.
OmniClass	OmniClass	OmniClass is a classification system for organising library materials, product literature and project information. OmniClass has 15 'classification tables'; some of which are incorporated from other classification systems including: MasterFormat (a classification for 'work results') and UniFormat (a classification of 'construction elements'). OmniClass is an open standard developed by the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI).
OIR	organisation Information Requirements	Data and information required to achieve the organisation's objectives.

Abbreviation	Term	Definition
Open BIM	Open BIM	The term generically refers to the process of exchanging non-proprietary BIM models and other data. Open BIM is a "universal approach to the collaborative design, realisation and operation of buildings based on open standards and workflows. Open BIM is an initiative of buildingSMART and several leading software vendors using the open buildingSMART data model".
Photo grammetry	Photogrammetry	A model use representing the automatic or semi-automatic process of generating 3D models through photography and image analyses.
PIM	Project Information Model	Information model developed during the design and production and construction phase of a project, consisting of graphical information, non- graphical information and documentation defining the delivered project.
Point Cloud	Point Cloud	A set of data points in 3D which are typically created by 3D laser scanners to capture an object, space or a whole building. Point clouds can be transformed into meshes, surfaces and even 3D objects using specialised tools. Point cloud files can be typically imported into most BIM software tools to generate as-built models or model parts.
BIM QTO	BIM Quantity take-offs	A model use representing how 3D models are used to calculate the quantity of furniture, fixtures and equipment or building materials for the purpose of generating cost estimates or Bills of Quantities.
RDS	Room Data Sheet	Room Data Sheet (RDS)s are 2D drawings detailing the facility operator's requirements (room layout, furniture, fittings, equipment, and surface finishes) of each room type within a large facility. RDSs are typically developed for projects that include numerous identical rooms (e.g. hospitals and large hotels).
RFID	Radio Frequency Identification	A technology that uses radio waves to transfer data from an electronic tag or label, attached to an object, through a reader for the purpose of identifying and tracking the object.
RM	Responsibility Matrix	A table setting out the responsibilities of each discipline for model or information production according to pre-defined project stages. The Responsibility Matrix (RM) is typically first included - in low detail - within the Exchange Information Requirements and then - in higher detail - within the Master Information Delivery Plan (MIDP).
SCADA	Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition	Supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) is a control system architecture comprising computers, networked data communications and graphical user interfaces for high-level process supervisory management, while also comprising other peripheral devices like programmable logic controllers and discrete proportional-integral-derivative controllers to interface with process plant or machinery. The use of SCADA has been considered also for management and operations of project-driven-process in construction.
TIDP	Task Information Delivery Plan	The Task Information Delivery Plan (TIDP) is a schedule of information containers and delivery dates, for a specific task team.

Abbreviation	Term	Definition
UU	Underground Utilities	Underground Utilities means any below ground line, structure, facility or installation used by a utility or service provider including, but not limited to, telephone company lines; cable television lines; internet lines; sewer lines and water lines, including individual sewer and water service lines; stormwater lines; gas lines; electrical lines; and traffic signal lines.
VDC	Virtual Design and Construction	VDC is a combination of new technologies with an adequate work and management scheme, supporting people working together on the project, in an integrated and simultaneous way. The scheme is focused on achieving the project's objectives, which should help the client to achieve their goals while collecting data and tracking workflow progress.
VR	Virtual Reality	A model use where 3D models are part of an immersive environment where users experience simulated places, objects and processes. As opposed to augmented reality simulation, VR may require full 'immersion' within multi-projection rooms and/or through stereoscopic goggles and other specialised gear.
WIP	Work in progress	It may refer to a state that is used for information while it is being developed by its task team. An information container in this state should not be visible or accessible to any other task team. This is particularly important if a CDE solution is implemented through a shared system, for example a shared server or web-portal.
XML	eXtensible Markup Language	A language for defining and exchanging structured, computer interpretable information. It provides a method for both the definition of information, and the encoding of data based on the definition into an exchange format.

Acknowledgement

- BIM Dictionary (<https://bimdictionary.com/>)
- EMSD (<https://ee.emsd.gov.hk/>)
- Medium.com (https://medium.com/@sukhchain_84091/3d-to-8d-bim-a-brilliant-support-for-virtual-building-performance-6809d32f8f40)
- MTR Corporation Limited
- The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
- Wiki – Wikipedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiki>)

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Feedback Form

CIC BIM Dictionary

To improve future editions of this publication, we would be grateful to have your comments.

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