

Introducing SpecQuest

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Question: What Is SpecQuest?

- SpecQuest will be formally introduced at the September Meeting by Tommy Smith, Mike Eckles, and Carl Drennan.
- SpecQuest is an initiative of the Technical Committee of Memphis Chapter CSI to renew interest in the importance and relevance of construction specifications.
- SpecQuest will have three components. SpecTopic, SpecTalk, and SpecChat

What is the significance of the title SpecQuest?: The title SpecQuest was submitted by Technical Committee member, Carl Drennan. The committee felt that the title reflected the goal of the current technical committee to emphasize the importance of specifications to all members of the construction community not just specifiers. "Spec" indicates a focus on specifications and "quest" indicates one who searches, pursues, investigates or makes inquiry.

Who can participate in SpecQuest? Any individual who

1. Prepares Specs (Specifiers, A/Es, clerical)
2. Beneficiaries of Specs (Owners)
3. Coordinates Specs (CAD techs/Drafters)
4. Uses Specs (Constructors/Suppliers)
5. Administers Specs (A/E's and Contractors)
6. Provides Resource for Specs (Product Reps)
7. Enforces Specs (Code Enforcement)
8. Interprets Specs (Attorneys)

Is CSI membership required to participate and belong to SpecQuest? SpecQuest is an outreach of the Memphis Chapter to both members and non-members to promote a greater emphasis on construction specifications. It is hoped that non-member SpecQuest participants will recognize the value of CSI membership and join the chapter.

Will SpecQuest topics be limited?: The primary focus of SpecQuest will be specification related as viewed from the perspective of various SpecQuest participants.

Will SpecQuest replace SpecWizards? Yes, SpecQuest should be considered an expanded version of SpecWizards which was perceived by many as being only for specifiers.

What are the 3 detailed components to SpecQuest?

SpecTopic: Will be a spec related article of varying length (1 to 1-1/2) pages appearing monthly in the PerSPECtive and as a PDF on www.csimemphis.org.

SpecTalk: A brief five to ten minute (maximum) presentation at a chapter meeting on the same subject appearing in SpecTopic. Presenter will usually be author of SpecTopic.

SpecChat: A moderated open discussion of the SpecTopic/SpecTalk subject over lunch on the first Thursday of each month providing participants the opportunity to learn from one another. Moderator's role will be to keep discussions on topic and facilitate discussion.

What is the Cost to Attend SpecChat: The only cost is the cost of your own lunch as you select from the menu.

What are Upcoming Subjects: The upcoming topic will be announced during SpecTalk at each chapter meeting and at SpecChat. Subject presently under consideration are:

1. Specs: Competition-Innovation-Advancement
2. Is MasterFormat a Standard?
3. Or Equal
4. Dealing with Dual MasterFormats
5. Common Spec Misconceptions
6. Coordinating Specs and Drawings
7. Specs and BIM.
8. Defining Products
9. Specs -Promoting competition and innovation.
10. Product Suppliers – Resource for Specs.
11. Subcontractors – Facilitating Agreement
12. Specifying Warranties.
13. Word-Processing with Styles.

Participants will propose and select final topics of interest.

Will Continuing Education Credits be provided for moderated discussions at SpecChat? Currently it is intended that one Professional Development Hour (PDH) is granted to participant certifying that SpecTopic has been read, and attendance at SpecChat recorded.