

SMACNA Policy Statement on Interoperability

SMACNA believes that achieving interoperable, open standards in the AEC and facilities management industry software communities will contribute to the elimination of significant waste and inefficiencies in building design, construction, and indeed, the entire building lifecycle.

Incompatible software programs are the norm throughout the construction industry. This incompatibility creates a convoluted patchwork of systems, resulting in rework and duplications that cause significant loss in productivity as well as increased project costs. The public and private development of open standards and platforms for information exchange, without infringing on private industry proprietary innovation is a challenge to which SMACNA is contributing.

Background

The New Horizons Foundation, an HVAC and sheet metal industry initiative has produced a comprehensive study on the “Impact of Incompatible Software on HVAC and Sheet Metal Contractors.” That study proved to be the springboard for a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between SMACNA and the National Institute of Building Sciences; buildingSMARTAlliance, and MCAA and NECA, as together these organizations strive to address interoperability issues in the MEP sectors. Work is underway through the MOA agreement to further open BIM standards in the MEP sectors by defining Model View Definitions and Information Delivery Manuals in accordance with the United States National BIM Standard.

SMACNA will continue to reach out and engage members, industry and software partners in its efforts to make interoperability a reality.