

Introduction

An Overview

The National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) Facility Information Council (FIC) (formerly the CADD Council) facilitated the development of the United States National CAD Standard® (NCS), and will continue to support its evolution in the future. The Standard is comprised of three documents previously published by member organizations of the FIC and the report of the NIBS NCS Project Committee. The NIBS report includes this Introduction, Administration, and Appendixes, with amendments to the constituent documents as approved by the committee. The report describes how the constituent documents are related to one another, resolves discrepancies between them, and ensures the full integration of the previously independent parts. The constituent documents include:

- **AIA CAD Layer Guidelines**, The American Institute of Architects;
- **Uniform Drawing System**, Modules 1-8, The Construction Specifications Institute; and
- **Plotting Guidelines**.

The origins of the NCS (see *A Brief History* below) can be traced to a Memorandum of Understanding (see Appendix C) signed by the above publishing organizations as well as the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association (SMACNA) and the United States General Services Administration (GSA). Broad building design and construction industry support is evidenced by the membership of the NIBS FIC Board of Direction (see Appendix G), under whose auspices the NCS Project Committee operates.

The constituent documents have undergone a thorough review and comment process by the NCS Project Committee, the body formed by the FIC to review and comment on the existing publications that comprise the Standard. The Committee followed the NIBS Consensus Process in conducting its work. This process ensures broad, democratic participation by all interested persons and organizations. It provides a framework for the coordination and integration of the previously independent parts. Additionally it establishes a mechanism for revising the constituent documents to meet the needs of the broadest possible spectrum of users.

This Overview is intended to provide you with a brief history of the development of the NCS and to inform you of the process for its future evolution and development. The remainder of the Introduction is organized according to the following topics:

- Adoption and Implementation:
How Vision Becomes Reality
- Implementation:
The Role of Design Professionals
The Role of Building Owners
The Role of Building Design Software Developers
- Benefits:
Why Should You Adopt the United States National CAD Standard?
Benefits for Building Design Professionals
Benefits for the General Contractor and related Sub-contractors
Benefits for the Client/Building Owner
Benefits for the Entire Building Design and Construction Industry
- The United States National CAD Standard:
One Element of a Larger Framework
A Brief History
- The Facility Information Council:
History, Mission, Governance
- The United States National CAD Standard NCS Project Committee:
How You Can Participate