

Objectives

The objective of the Module is to provide a standardized resource for construction terms and their abbreviations. It is not the objective of the Module to encourage the use of abbreviations. *The Project Resource Manual – CSI Manual of Practice* states that, whenever possible, terms should be spelled out and abbreviations should be used only to reduce time and space or where appropriate to improve clarity. The increased use of computer-aided drafting (CAD) has reduced the time required for writing text and notes on drawings, and the need for abbreviations. The use of obscure or undefined abbreviations results in a flawed project. When the meaning of an abbreviation is in doubt, spell it out!

Methodology

The terms included in this Module were selected using the following criteria:

- The term has six or more letters. Terms with five letters or fewer should not be abbreviated. However, certain commonly used terms (such as “build” and “center”) have been included.
- Trade association acronyms, such as UL, ASTM, and NFPA, have been included if the organization publishes standards likely to be referenced on drawings.
- Common English language terms have not been included. Some examples are “afternoon” (PM) and “Central Standard Time” (CST).
- Abbreviations representing professional licenses, certifications, or memberships associated with a person’s name are not included. It is assumed that the professional, whose name is on the documents, will define and control the proper format of his name. American Institute of Architects (AIA), Professional Engineer (PE), and Certified Construction Specifier (CCS) are examples.
- Terms in conflict with industry-accepted terminology do not have abbreviations. The proper term is shown in the “Notes” column and its abbreviation is in the Module.
- Symbols that contain letters are not abbreviations.

Terms

Term	Abbreviation	Shared Abbreviation	Notes
A			
abandon	ABAN		
abbreviation	ABBRV		
abnormal	ABNL		
above finished counter	AFC	automatic frequency control	
above finished floor	AFF		
above finished grade	AFG		
above finished slab	AFS		
above suspended ceiling	ASC	amps short circuit; asphalt surface course	
abrasive	ABRSV		
abrasive hardness	Ha		
abrasive resistant	ABRSV RES		
absolute	ABS	acrylonitrile butadiene styrene	
absorption	ABSORB		
access door	ACS DR		
access floor	ACS FLR		
access panel	ACS PNL		
accessible	ACC		
acid/alkaline scale	pH		
acid resistant	ACID RES		
acid resistant cast iron	ACID RES CI		
acid resistant pipe	ACID RES P		
acid resistant vent	ACID RES V		
acid resistant waste	ACID RES W		
acid vent	AV	air vent; audio visual	
acid waste	AW	actual weight; architectural woodwork	

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Term	Shared Abbreviation
1PH	single-phase	
1P	single pole	
1WAY	one-way	
2/C	two-conductor	
2WAY	two-way	
3/C	three-conductor	
3PH	three-phase	
3PLY	three-ply	
3WAY	three-way	
4/C	four-conductor	
4OUT	quadruple receptacle outlet	
4PDT	four-pole double throw	
4PST	four-pole single throw	
4W	four-wire	
4WAY	four-way	
A		
A LABEL	Class A door	
A/C	air condition	
A/C UNIT	air conditioning unit	
A/E	architect/engineer	
AACE	American Association of Cost Engineers	
AAD	automatic air damper	
AAMA	American Architectural Manufacturers Association	
AAP	alarm annunciator panel	
AAV	automatic air vent	