



CIB NEWS ARTICLE

International Council for Research and Innovation
in Building and Construction

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May 2010

Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

TG80 - Legal and Regulatory Aspects of BIM

Introducing New Task Group

A new Task Group, TG80 on "Legal and Regulatory Aspects of BIM" has been established. Mr. Brodie McAdam, University of Salford, UK and Prof. Kerry London, Deakin University, Australia are the Joint Coordinators of this new Task Group.

A short description of the Task Group and Coordinators follows below.

Background

Building Information Modelling (BIM) is an emergent, heavily IT dependent, and potentially enormously collaborative construction mode. In its purest, theoretical manifestation a building information model is a single, virtual model representing all elements of a building or project, down to the finest detail. In practice there is a spectrum of BIM implementation approaches, most of which involve a number of different virtual models, produced by different people, at different times, for different purposes. These factors pose challenges relating, for example, to the extent to which data can be relied on, and for what purpose.

Just as the nature and extent of BIM adoption varies, so too do the attempts to facilitate BIM implementation from a legal perspective. For example, tensions exist between the collaborative possibilities of BIM implementation, on the one hand, and the clarity of role identification required for determining legal responsibility, on the other. Analogous complexities surround the challenge of effectively insuring risks, which arise in the context of BIM implemented construction projects. Likewise, existing regulatory structures for professionals seeking to use BIM technologies may inhibit full adoption.

Objectives and Scope

The TG79 objectives are:

- to establish a thriving international research and practice community relating to the legal aspects of BIM implementation
- to produce an international review of the legal aspects of BIM implementation
- to produce a best practice model for legally effective BIM implementation.

The scope of the proposed task group is to draw on past, present and future experiences of BIM implementation in order to build an international knowledge base and literature relating to the proper legal approaches to adopt.

Work Programme

Using CIB and other networks of academic researchers, professional bodies and construction professionals, the first step is to inform the BIM implementation community of the formation of the Task Group. It is anticipated that this would include a significant group of individuals and organisations from various parts of the world. Thereafter it will be necessary to develop a team, which represents the different strands of the interest groups (employers, contractors, specialist subcontractors, construction lawyers, designers, project and construction managers, legal scholars and researchers) and the major jurisdictions in which BIM implementation takes place.

This group would undertake the following:

- to organise a series of international meetings, normally in conjunction with established CIB events including W113 Law and Dispute Resolution and W078 with whom it would expect to have a close working relationship
- to establish a web-based discussion forum, which would be used to share knowledge and research data and to assist in the development of a virtual Community of Practice

- to produce an international review, which provides insight into the relative legal effectiveness of different approaches to BIM implementation, identifying their key strengths and weaknesses. This would be a major output of the task group resulting in a work, which would serve as a guide to construction professionals throughout the world for the legally successful implementation of BIM implementation
- to leverage from the international review, develop a model for best practice BIM implementation, to form the basis of the potential development of new contractual forms, subject to the conclusions drawn from the review.

Meetings

The four prime meetings will be:

- 2010:** May, CIB World Congress, University of Salford, UK
- 2011:** September, in association with Law & Dispute Resolution Commission Meeting (W113) at COBRA Conference COBRA Conference in Perth, Australia
- 2012:** October, in association with W078 Information Technology for Construction Commission Conference.
- 2013:** April/May, CIB World Congress

Introducing the Coordinators

Brodie McAdam



Present appointment:

- Lecturer, School of the Built Environment, University of Salford, since December 2006
- Newly registered as PhD student.

Previous appointments:

- 1996 to 1998 Trainee Solicitor
- 1998 to 1999 Personal Injury Solicitor, Wansbroughs Willey Hargrave, Temple Street, Bristol
- 1999 to 2005 Professional Indemnity/Construction Litigator
- 2005 to 2006 Associate Solicitor, Construction Department, Beachcroft Wansbroughs (becoming Beachcroft LLP), 7 Park Square East, Leeds

Kerry London



A short description of Ms London follows:

- 2005 PhD University of Melbourne
Construction Supply Chain Economics.
PhD awarded in Cat. 1
Examiners: Professor Roger Flanagan and Professor David Langford
- 1997 MBldg (Research), University of Newcastle
The Development of a Post Occupancy Evaluation Model Based upon a systems approach
Examiners: Professor Dennis Lenard, Dr Tom Uher, Masters awarded in Cat. 1
- 1987 BArch, University of Newcastle
- 1985 BSc (Arch) with Merit, University of Newcastle
- 2009-1990 Registered Architect NSW Board of Architects
- 2009 Vice President Australasian Chartered Institute of Building
- 2009-2008 Education Chair Australasian Regional Council CIOB
- 2009 Member Australian Institute of Building
- 2009-10 Associate Dean Research – Faculty of Science and Technology
Director Infrastructure Chain Excellence [ICE] Faculty Research Cluster
Chair of Construction Management, Deakin University

Additional Information

For additional information about the CIB TG80 contact the Coordinators: Brodie McAdam W.B.McAdam@salford.ac.uk and Kerry London kerry.london@deakin.edu.au.

You can find more information on the activities of CIB TG80 at www.cibworld.nl -Databases-select "Go to Database" – in the shown search engine: type TG80 in the field "Commission number".