



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**EJCDC, AIA, and CSI Jointly Release
Construction Contract Locator Guide**

ALEXANDRIA, Va., February 1, 2012—The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee (EJCDC[®]) today joined the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) in releasing a new edition of the guidance document *Uniform Location of Subject Matter* (ULSM) (EJCDC[®] N-122, 2012, AIA Document A521[™]-2012). The 2012 ULSM is available from EJCDC as a free download, and will be included at no charge with purchases of EJCDC's Engineering Series package (EJCDC[®] E-990, featuring EJCDC[®] E-500, *Agreement between Owner and Engineer for Professional Services*, and other engineering services agreements and subagreements) and EJCDC's Construction Series package (EJCDC[®] C-990, featuring EJCDC[®] C-700, *Standard General Conditions of the Construction Contract*, and other construction-related contract documents and forms). The AIA is also making the ULSM available for download free of charge, at www.aia.org/contractdocs/reference. CSI is making the ULSM available for download free of charge at www.csinet.org/ulsm. EJCDC is making the ULSM available for download free of charge at www.ejcdc.org.

Construction contracts typically include several components. Key business terms are found in the Agreement form, and further developed, refined, or modified by the General Conditions and Supplementary Conditions, and the Drawings and Specifications. In addition, key contract-related information is sometimes included in bidding documents, such as instructions to bidders and bid forms. Through the years the publishers of standard construction contracts (such as EJCDC and AIA) and CSI have worked to establish standard approaches to the structure and organization of construction contract documents, for the benefit and guidance of the drafters and users of the documents. The ULSM is the result of these efforts. The ULSM provides a comprehensive list of the subjects covered in typical construction documents, and recommends where each subject should be addressed.

For example, the issue of ownership of the drawings and specifications (and other instruments of service) is an important and sometimes controversial subject. AIA, EJCDC, and CSI recommend that the subject be addressed in the construction contract's General Conditions (see EJCDC[®] C-700, Article 3; AIA Document A201[™]-2007, Section 1.5). The detailed listing of the documents forming the basis of the contract is critically important, and will vary from project to project; therefore the ULSM

recommends that “Contract Documents—detailed listing of” be set out in the Agreement section of the contract.

The ULSM is useful to construction contract drafters (owners, construction managers, attorneys, architects, engineers, contractors) not only for determining the recommended location of a subject, but also as a checklist of key topics to be addressed. For example, one ULSM line item is “Conferences and meetings—during construction.” This might prompt the drafter of a specific contract to consider and address whether such meetings will be held, and if so, how frequently, who will attend, and so on. The ULSM recommends that the subject be addressed in Division 01 of the Specifications.

For years there was no generally accepted approach to locating contract information. To help remedy this situation, EJCDC and AIA issued the first *Uniform Location of Subject Matter* in 1977. For each topic covered, the ULSM indicates for the bidding or contract document in which the principal or primary statement should be located, as well as where any supplemental statement may appear.

EJCDC documents are specifically written for public and private infrastructure and engineered facilities projects in the United States. The documents can readily be customized to suit each project’s unique goals and regulatory requirements.

Since 1975, EJCDC has developed and updated fair and objective standard documents that represent the latest and best thinking in contractual relations between all parties involved in engineering design and construction projects. EJCDC is a joint venture of four major organizations of professional engineers and contractors. EJCDC's sponsoring organizations—the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE), and the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)—offer EJCDC documents on their online stores at a discount to organization members. EJCDC documents may also be purchased at www.ejcdc.org.

About The American Institute of Architects

For over 150 years, members of the American Institute of Architects have worked with each other and their communities to create more valuable, healthy, secure, and sustainable buildings and cityscapes. Members adhere to a code of ethics and professional conduct to ensure the highest standards in professional practice. Embracing their responsibility to serve society, AIA members engage civic and government leaders and the public in helping find needed solutions to pressing issues facing our communities, institutions, nation and world. Visit www.aia.org.

About CSI

CSI (Construction Specifications Institute) is a national association dedicated to improving the documentation, management and communication of building information as used by the construction community. CSI accomplishes its mission through the development of construction standards and formats such as MasterFormat and UniFormat; the promulgation of those formats through master guide specifications and

building information management (BIM) software; training and certification programs, including the Construction Documents Technology (CDT) and Certified Construction Contract Administrator (CCCA) exams; publication of Construction Specifier magazine; and an ever-expanding membership of decision-makers who identify and specify building product solutions. CSI members include a cross-section of specifiers, architects, contractors, suppliers and other construction project professionals who are touched by construction documentation. For more information, visit www.csinet.org, or call **800.689.2900**.

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