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Subject: Metric Design Policy

Applicability: Guidance

1. The purpose of this Bulletin is to reiterate current USACE metric policy, which has been in place since 21 November 1994. This Guidance is equally applicable to Military Construction and Civil Works projects.
2. Public law designates the metric system of measurement as the preferred system of weights and measures for United States trade and commerce, and it requires the use of the metric system of measurement in all Federal acquisitions, except to the extent that such use is "impracticable or is likely to cause significant inefficiencies or loss of markets to United States firms." Certain building materials, such as concrete masonry units (CMU) and recessed lighting fixtures (RLF), are specifically exempt from the metric policy and should not be specified only in metric units.
3. Current USACE policy states that all designs for new or renovated facilities shall be developed using the metric system of measurement, unless such use leads to inefficiencies or would be impractical. Increased initial cost or life cycle cost is certainly an indicator of inefficiencies. The design office is responsible for making the determination on whether or not to use the metric system of measurement on a project by project basis. Statements such as "the user does not want it in metric" or "the designer is not comfortable using metric" are not adequate arguments on their own for not using metric, but may be part of the decision process. The decision to not use metric must be justifiable and well documented in the permanent project files.
4. HQUSACE point of contact for metric policy is Bob Fite, CECW-E TE, 202-761-7169.

For
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