

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Office of Construction &
Facilities Management

Office of Facilities Planning
Facilities Standards Service

STANDARDS ALERT

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VA Adoption of Building Information Modeling (BIM)

ISSUE: Use of BIM of VA Capital Projects

BACKGROUND: The use of BIM is being rapidly adopted by nationwide design, construction, and facility management firms. VA wishes to take advantage of the numerous benefits BIM can provide and to promote its use throughout VA.

DISCUSSION: BIM software uses a relational database to create intelligent building objects and can provide 2D, 3D, 4D, & 5D project views. The use of this innovative technology will improve program tracking, building systems coordination, foster much improved visualization of the design and construction process, and ultimately reduce cost, better manage risk, as well as provide data for operation and maintenance during the life cycle of these building. The ability to transfer data between software systems using Industry Foundation Class (IFC) protocol means design information can transfer directly for construction and facility management purposes reducing time, money, and errors.

NEW STANDARD: Require use of IFC compliant parametric Building Information Modeling (BIM) as the architectural/engineering software for all new major construction projects and renovations starting design in FY 2009. Major construction projects that start design in FY 2008 are also encouraged to use IFC compliant BIM. Major construction includes capital projects appropriated at over \$10M.

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