

The Original IDEX CA Prep Class

Professional Practice for Interior Designers – Specifications

➤ **Specification overview**

- Specifications are the written instructions to the general contractors and the vendors with detail beyond the drawings
- Value engineering is when design solutions are based upon product analysis and cost effectiveness
- The energy requirements concerning the materials and equipment (especially in kitchens, etc.) are listed (i.e. Energy Star ratings, etc.)
- Specifications compliment the drawings, not duplicate them
- They consist of technical descriptions:
 - materials and products;
 - qualities and workmanship;
 - installation requirements;
 - responsibilities of bidders and so on
- In court cases the written word supersedes disputes over what is shown in the drawings

➤ **Basic specification categories**

- Closed specification
 - Written for a product such that no other product can be substituted – an exact match
- Open specification
 - Substitutions may be made for the original products
- Or equal specifications
 - Products can be substituted that are the “same as” or similar to the product specified

➤ **Specific types of specifications**

- Proprietary specifications
 - Easiest specification to write
 - Interior designer has maximum product control over the project
 - Names the products and the materials by the manufacturer’s name, product name, model, part number and color or finish
 - Considered a closed specification
- Descriptive specifications
 - Materials, workmanship, fabrication methods and installation for the goods are described in elaborate detail
 - Narrows the alternatives for the client
- Performance specification
 - Product criteria is based upon the exact performance criteria using quantitative or measurable statements from the manufacturers
 - Attributes define what is suitable for obtaining desired results
- Reference Specification

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- Utilizes an established standard, such as the standards of ASTM and ANSI
 - Considered an open bid
- Standardized organization formats
 - Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) MasterFormat is most frequently used
 - The Standardized Organization Format has developed a common language of construction and a standardized format for the preparation of specifications

Primary source pages 581-7; Author Christine M. Piotrowski, FASID, IIDA