

## CRB – Standards for construction

The Swiss Research Centre for Rationalization in Building and Civil Engineering (CRB) is Switzerland's foremost competence centre for standardization in the construction and real estate sectors. Founded as an association (the abbreviation «CRB» stems from the original French name «Centre Suisse d'études pour la Rationalisation du Bâtiment»), it boasts a more than 65-year-plus track record in improving communication between clients, designers, contractors and suppliers.

It collaborates with construction professionals and practitioners as well as partner organizations to develop tools, which are made available in the form of catalogues, web applications and data for software programs. Clear terminology, a uniform system architecture and structured data formats pave the way for the industry-wide exchange of information. CRB's products facilitate the optimization of processes, the uniform calculation, comparison and analysis of costs for built assets, the specification of works, and the clear definition of colours and building materials.

### Ensuring everyone speaks the same language

To meet the needs of the Swiss construction community, CRB offers reliable, up-to-date standard tools for use across the entire life cycle of a building or structure – from design and construction to facility management: the **Catalogue of Standard Descriptions (CSD)** provides the foundation for the standardized, legally certain specification of construction works and services. The **cost classifications** allow construction project costs to be arranged by either trades/work sections (Building Cost Classification – BCC) or elements (Element-Based Cost Classification for Building Construction/Civil Engineering – eCC-BC and eCC-CE). The **werk-material.online** platform offers a reliable, transparent source of cost rates gathered from over a thousand projects. The **Natural Colour System (NCS)**, which CRB has been the distributor in Switzerland for over 40 years, sets the framework for precise colour communication.

### Transformation in step with the digital age

To fully exploit the opportunities unlocked by digitization, an innovative approach to the new challenges is essential. That is why CRB continuously refines its standard tools while working intensively to put in place a continuous, end-to-end information management system. Two approaches are currently being pursued for model-based tendering: one of these involves defining relevant features of parts of works as CRB standards and making them verifiable by IDS (Information Delivery Specification). The second entails developing an online CRB service that offers machine support in the search for CSD items based on the properties of 3D elements from a digital building model and links 3D elements to CSD items.

### Advancement through CPD

CRB's continuing professional development (CPD) programmes promote the proper application of its standard tools while facilitating knowledge transfer and the establishment of new contacts. The practice-oriented courses cover the basics behind construction costs, cost rates, standard descriptions, facility management, colours and design. They also address topical issues, such as occupational safety, specification, tendering and contract award, acceptance, contracts, BIM, dimensional tolerances and quality management.

#### CRB in brief

- Founded in 1959
- 72 staff in Zurich, Fribourg and Bellinzona
- Over 4,500 association members
- Over 7,000 licensees
- Approx. 40 CRB-certified software partners
- Close collaboration with around 70 professional and trade associations
- Some 200 CSD work sections containing over 1.3 million standard descriptions in 3 languages
- Practice-oriented CPD courses in German, French and Italian

#### Management

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