

## BIM Standards and Guidelines

### Why Develop BIM Standards and Guidelines?

There are several different situations that can lead a firm to seek help developing BIM Standards and Guidelines. Perhaps your organization fits into one of the following categories:

- Teams work without any standards or guidelines established. Everyone models in their own unique way and it's a challenge to pass models between teams or share them with outside stakeholders.
- The team has established standards for a technology like Autodesk® AutoCAD®, but those standards need to be translated to BIM Guidelines.
- The team already has BIM Standards and Guidelines in place, but they aren't sure whether they are leveraging their processes and technology as efficiently as possible.

If you can see your firm reflected in any of these scenarios, it's time to change. By investing in updated or new protocols, organizations see positive results:

- **Greater productivity.** With standards and guidelines in place, teams spend less time on the administrative aspects of using BIM tools. People can instead focus more on creativity and can document their vision faster for projects.
- **Better coordination within teams and with external partners.** Clearly defined processes and checkpoints keep teams in sync. Usually the larger an organization is, the more important it is to have standards and guidelines to keep everyone on the same page. A documented set of protocols also informs outside firms about how they need to deliver information. Research has found that one of the most important factors for increasing BIM benefits is more clearly defined BIM deliverables between parties.<sup>1</sup> Standards and guidelines help make that goal a reality.
- **Higher quality work.** BIM Standards and Guidelines clearly articulate how business will be done. As a result, teams generate more consistent, predictable, and high quality work.

### Why Work With a Partner to Develop BIM Standards & Guidelines?

Here are three questions to consider, as your firm decides whether to work with a partner on establishing your BIM protocols:

1. **Do you know what effective standards and guidelines look like?** One reason that it can be worthwhile to seek out help on BIM Standards and Guidelines is because firms simply don't know what effective standards and guidelines other than those they are currently employing, look like. Teams are heads down, day in and day out on project work. Either they don't have standards in place or they've been working with an existing standard for so long, they are unsure whether it's the "right" standard for their projects and business requirements. Yet, there's no time to research what the right guidelines are for the organization. It can be helpful to partner with a firm that has experience developing BIM Standards and Guidelines at hundreds of organizations of different sizes and in different industries.

2. **Do you have insight into industry best practices which suggest what the right level of standards and guidelines are for your firm?** Without this level of big picture oversight, it's easy to either over mandate the degree of BIM Standards and Guidelines or under guide which results in inadequate direction. In some cases, it will make sense for firms to have one set of company-wide BIM Standards, as well as market-specific standards. The National Institute of Building Sciences buildingSMART alliance has found that when BIM Standards aren't correctly used, information is re-keyed into several different systems an average of seven times.<sup>2</sup> Working with an expert is often the shortest path to navigating a firm's complex BIM ecosystem and developing a "right sized" set of standards and guidelines.
3. **Do you have the time and resources needed to document BIM Standards and Guidelines?** Without documenting agreed-upon standards and guidelines, that information is soon forgotten or interpreted incorrectly. However, documentation often falls by the wayside if firms try to develop standards and guidelines in-house. A valuable service that partners can provide, in addition to developing or refreshing standards and guidelines, is ensuring that everything is clearly documented. Ideally, standards and guidelines should be available online in digital form.

## Why Partner with IMAGINiT?

When IMAGINiT teams work with clients, their guiding principle is "our goal is your goal." IMAGINiT has a rich foundation of knowledge gathered through years of experience, but our top priority is making sure that solutions and recommendations are tailored to each client's unique environment and business goals. We are committed to matching BIM Standards and Guidelines to the way client teams work and ensuring that they support what clients want to achieve.

Here are some additional reasons why you may want to partner with IMAGINiT:

- **Unparalleled expertise.** Unlike many of our competitors, IMAGINiT has a dedicated team that has deep experience working with clients to develop BIM Standards and Guidelines. Our experts have worked with hundreds of firms in many industries. They know what works well and what doesn't when it comes to BIM Standards and Guidelines.
- **A defined process for identifying the right standards and guidelines for your firm.** IMAGINiT teams conduct an in-depth survey of the client's existing processes and workflows. Detailed, structured interviews with key stakeholders help identify the business needs, as well as what standards and guidelines will lead to the most productive work environment. The goal is to define standards that are easy to follow and will be quickly adopted by team members. Agreed-upon BIM Standards and Guidelines are then documented for online access.
- **Knowledge of software and industry practices.** IMAGINiT's teams possess a unique combination of software expertise and a deep knowledge of industry best practices. In addition to identifying the most appropriate BIM Standards and Guidelines for your firm, they can flag opportunities to streamline workflows and improve productivity through automation.

<sup>1</sup> The Business Value of BIM in North America: Multi-Year Trend Analysis and User Ratings (2007-2012). McGraw-Hill Construction. 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Frequently Asked Questions About the National BIM Standard-United States. <http://www.nationalbimstandard.org/faq.php>

## About IMAGINiT Technologies

IMAGINiT Technologies, a Rand Worldwide Company, is the world's largest provider of enterprise solutions to the engineering community, including the building, manufacturing, civil and mapping industries. With over 25 years of experience, and over 40 offices throughout North America, we provide the expertise, training and support to help companies realize the full power of design technology, maximize ROI and gain competitive advantage.

IMAGINiT is a leading provider of Autodesk software solutions and the largest North American Autodesk Authorized Training Center (ATC) partner. All of our locations are supported by a vast pool of engineering resources focused on developing real-life business solutions for their local clients.



 [info@rand.com](mailto:info@rand.com)  800.356.9050  [www.imaginit.com](http://www.imaginit.com)



**Specialization**  
Building  
Civil Infrastructure  
Product Design & Manufacturing  
Government  
Education

**Value Added Services**  
Consulting Specialized  
Product Support Specialized  
Authorized Training Center