



Construction ABCs (Abbreviation Boycott Charter)

We live in an age of abbreviations, acronyms and initialisms. To prevent construction from becoming an industry of Jargon, we, the undersigned commit to always:

- ✓ **Understand** what an abbreviation is for before using it, and make sure that the use of each abbreviation makes sense.
- ✓ **Avoid** abbreviations unless they are within the common parlance.
For example, CDM is a much more common term than 'Construction (Design and Management)'.
- ✓ **Ensure** that abbreviations are never grouped together.
For example, 'The EIR PLQs regarding GSL ensure that...'
- ✓ **Introduce** abbreviations with the full term when their use is necessary.
For example, Request for Information (RFI).
- ✓ **Eliminate** abbreviations which suffer from redundant abbreviation syndrome.
For example, PIN number, ATM machine, LCD display and BIM model.
- ✓ **Use** established abbreviations and avoid producing your own.
For example, NEC4 created 'Information Model Requirements (IMP)' as opposed to using the PAS 1192-2 term 'Employer's Information Requirements (EIR)'.
- ✓ **Apply** plain language to ensure that anyone can understand. Indexes such as Flesch-Kincaid, Gunning Fog and the SMOG can be used to achieve this.
For example, the language in this charter is suitable for anyone who has finished high school.
- ✓ **Prevent** jargon and abbreviations you use from becoming shibboleths
For example, 'BIM model' is often used as a shibboleth to identify professionals who do not understand what BIM is.