



CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ACRONYMS AND TERMINOLOGY

(This list is not inclusive of all associations or terminology.)

MAJOR ASSOCIATIONS AND INDUSTRY BODIES

ACRONYM	DEFINITION	DESCRIPTION
ACA	Alberta Construction Association	Provincial voice for Alberta's construction industry.
ACEC	Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada	Represents independent engineering companies.
ACQ	Construction Association of Quebec Association de la construction du Québec	Provincial voice for Quebec's construction industry.
BCCA	British Columbia Construction Association	Provincial voice for BC's construction industry.
BOMA	Building Owners & Managers Association	Represents owners and managers of commercial buildings.
CANB	Construction Association of New Brunswick	Provincial voice for New Brunswick's construction industry.
CANS	Construction Association of Nova Scotia	Provincial voice for Nova Scotia's construction industry.
CAPE	Construction Association of PEI	Provincial voice for PEI's construction industry.
CARM	Construction Association of Rural Manitoba	Provincial voice for Manitoba's construction industry.
CCA	Canadian Construction Association	National voice for Canada's construction industry.
CCDC	Canadian Construction Documents Committee	Produces standardized construction contract documents.

Builders Code is administered by:



CECA / ECA	Canadian Electrical Contractors Association	Represents interests of Canada's electrical contractors.
CHBA	Canadian Home Builders Association	Voice of Canada's residential construction industry.
COCA	Council of Ontario Construction Associations	Umbrella for Ontario's construction groups.
CLAC	Christian Labour Association of Canada	Independent labour union.
CLRA	Construction Labour Relations Association	Represents unionized construction employers.
CSC	Construction Specifications Canada	Promotes clear and accurate construction specifications.
EI	Employment Insurance	Provides temporary income for qualifying out-of-work workers.
IBEW	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers	International labour union that represents workers in the electrical industry. In Canada, the IBEW has multiple local unions across provinces and cities.
ICBA	Independent Contractors and Businesses Association	Represents open-shop (non-union) contractors in Western Canada.
LCI	Lean Construction Institute of Canada	Advances Lean construction practices across the industry.
LiUNA	Labourers' International Union of North America	Large trade union for labourers.
MCA	Mechanical Contractors Association	Represents contractors working on mechanical systems in construction.
PCA	Progressive Contractors Association of Canada	Represents progressive unionized employers.
RAIC	Royal Architectural Institute of Canada	Represents and supports architects across Canada.

Builders Code is administered by:



SCA	Saskatchewan Construction Association	Provincial voice for Saskatchewan's construction industry.
UA	United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices (Plumbers & Pipefitters)	Represents skilled tradespeople.

CERTIFICATIONS, STANDARDS & SAFETY

ACRONYM	DEFINITION	DESCRIPTION
AB OHS	Alberta Occupational Health and Safety	Alberta's Provincial Safety Authority.
CGL	Commercial General Liability	Construction insurance policy.
COC (BRI)	Course of Construction (BRI – Builders Risk Insurance)	Insurance policy that protects buildings under construction against damage.
COR	Certificate of Recognition	Safety certification that proves a company has an effective H&S program.
CSA	Canadian Standards Association	Sets construction-related codes and standards.
ERP	Emergency Response Plan	Detailed plan outlining procedures during emergencies.
H2S	Hydrogen Sulfide	Toxic gas hazard — workers must be trained and equipped.
H&S	Health & Safety	Focuses on protecting workers and the public by preventing injuries, illnesses, and accidents on worksites.

Builders Code is administered by:



HASP	Health and Safety Plan	Project-specific safety plan required on jobsites.
JSA	Job Safety Analysis	Helps integrate safety into job tasks by identifying hazards.
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design	Green building rating system.
LOTO	Lockout/Tagout	Safety procedure ensuring machinery is properly shut off and not started up again until maintenance is complete.
MOL / OHS	Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development / Occupational Health and Safety	Ontario provincial safety authority.
MSDS/SDS	Material Safety Data Sheet / Safety Data Sheet	Now called SDS — details hazardous material info.
OH&S / OHS	Occupational Health & Safety	General term for workplace safety laws/regulations.
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment	Equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards. E.g. Hard hats, boots, gloves, eye protection, etc.
OHSA	Occupational Health and Safety Act	Governing legislation.
OHSNL	Occupational Health and Safety Division, Service NL	Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Safety Authority.
PTW	Permit to Work	Formal authorization to perform hazardous work.
SCBA	Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus	Personal respiratory protective device.
SDS	Safety Data Sheet	Contains information about hazardous materials (new term replacing MSDS).

Builders Code is administered by:

SECOR	Small Employer Certificate of Recognition	For small businesses under a threshold (varies by province).
SWMS	Safe Work Method Statement	Detailed plan describing how specific construction activities will be carried out safely.
SWP	Safe Work Practice	Established methods to perform tasks safely.
TDG	Transportation of Dangerous Goods	Canadian regulations for safe transport of hazardous materials.
WCBNS / NSLWD	Workers' Compensation Board of Nova Scotia / Nova Scotia Labour, Skills, and Immigration (OHS Division)	Nova Scotia Provincial Safety Authority.
WHMIS	Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System	National hazard communication standard.
WSBC	WorkSafeBC	BC's Provincial Safety Authority
WSCC	Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission (NWT & Nunavut)	Northwest Territories & Nunavut Safety Authority.
WSH	Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health	Manitoba's Provincial Safety Authority.
WSNB	WorkSafeNB	New Brunswick's Provincial Safety Authority.

PROCUREMENT, CONTRACTS & PROJECT DOCUMENTS

ACRONYM	DEFINITION	DESCRIPTION
BOQ	Bill of Quantities	Itemized materials & labour in a tender.
CM	Construction Manager	Often hired in CM contracts.

Builders Code is administered by:

CO	Change Order	Formal document to alter the contract scope or price.
GC	General Conditions	Contract rules and procedures.
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning	Common trade.
ICI	Industrial Commercial Institutional	Sectors focusing on non-residential building projects.
IFC	Issued for Construction	Final drawings or documents released for actual building work.
IFR	Issued for Review	Documents sent out for stakeholder feedback before final approval.
IFT	Issued for Tender	Documents issued to invite bids from contractors or suppliers.
ITT / ITB	Invitation to Tender / Bid	Formal invitation to submit a bid.
L&M	Labour and Materials	Referring to labour and materials on a project.
LEMS	Labour, Equipment, Materials	Managing labour, equipment, and materials on a project.
LOI	Letter of Intent	States intention to contract, not legally binding in all cases.
M&S	Materials and Supplies	Materials and supplies for a construction project
MASH/MUSH	Municipalities, Academic/Universities, Schools, Hospitals	Public sector clients.

Builders Code is administered by:

MEP	Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing	Combined building systems.
NDA	Non-Disclosure Agreement	Confidentiality agreement.
NOC	Notice of Change	Document notifying stakeholders of a change to the original contract.
PCO (CCO/CCN)	Proposed Change Order (CCO – Contemplated Change Order CCN – Contemplated Change Notice)	Suggested change not yet approved.
PCN	Proposed Change Notice	Notifies the team on project changes.
PM (P)	Project Manager (Professional)	Oversees planning, execution, and closeout.
OSR	Owner Statement of Requirement	Document defining owner's project needs and goals
PO	Purchase Order	Official buyer commitment.
QA/QC	Quality Assurance / Quality Control	Procedures to ensure standards and specs are met.
RFI	Request for Information	Clarification request during bidding or construction.
RFP	Request for Proposal	More detailed — asks for solution and pricing.
RFQ	Request for Quotation	When a client asks suppliers to quote a price.
SI	Site Instructions / Supplemental Instructions	On-site or written instructions to guide construction work.
SOW	Scope of Work	Written description of work tasks and deliverables.
Stat Dec	Statutory Declaration	Sworn statement confirming facts in writing.

Builders Code is administered by:



Submittals	Submittals	Shop drawings, product data, samples for approval.
TI	Tenant Improvement	Renovating a leased space for a tenant

ROLES, PROJECT DELIVERY & METHODS

ACRONYM	DEFINITION	DESCRIPTION
BIM	Building Information Modeling	Digital 3D modelling for coordination & clash detection.
CAD	Computer-Aided Design	Drafting plans/drawings.
CMAR	Construction Manager at Risk	CM (Construction Manager) guarantees cost and takes project delivery risk.
COBIE	Construction Operations Building Information Exchange	Data standard (part of BIM) that specifies how to organize and deliver building asset data.
DB	Design-Build	Single entity handles design and construction.
EPC	Engineering, Procurement, Construction	Contractor handles design and build.
GC	General Contractor	Main contractor managing the project.
GMP	Guaranteed Maximum Price	Contract setting the project's maximum price limit.
IPD	Integrated Project Delivery	Collaborative contracting method.
JV	Joint Venture	Partnership between firms for a project.
LEAN	LEAN Construction	Process that reduces waste and improves efficiency in construction projects.

Builders Code is administered by:





O&M	Operations and Maintenance	Maintaining a building after it's built.
OAEC	Owner, Architect, Engineer, Contractor	Key project stakeholders.
P3	Public-Private Partnership	Project funded and operated by private & public sectors together.
PC	Project Coordinator	Helps manage and organize construction projects
Punch List	Punch List	List of final tasks or deficiencies to complete.
QS	Quality Surveyer	Manages project costs and contracts.
RFIs	Requests for Information	Day-to-day clarifications during construction.
Sub	Subcontractor	Hired by GC (General Contractor) for specific work/trade.
T&M	Time and Materials	A type of contract payment basis.
TC	Trade Contractor	Performs specialized work on a construction project.
TQM	Total Quality Management	Focuses on continuous improvement and quality in all work.

Builders Code is administered by:

