



Standard Practice for Use of Metric (SI) Units in Building Design and Construction¹ (Committee E-6 Supplement to E380)

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This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

^{ε1} NOTE—Section 11 was added editorially in April 1999.

INTRODUCTION

The International System of Units (SI) was developed by the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM), which is an international treaty organization. The abbreviation SI, derived from the French “Système International d’Unités,” is used in all languages.

SI is a rational, coherent, international, and preferred measurement system which is derived from earlier decimal metric systems but supersedes all of them.

The use of the metric system in the United States was legalized by an Act of Congress in 1866, but was not made obligatory.

The *Metric Conversion Act of 1975*, as amended by the *Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988*, established the modernized metric system (SI) as the preferred system of measurement in the United States and required that, to the extent feasible, it be used in all federal procurement, grants, and business-related activities. Executive Order 12770 of July 25, 1991, *Metric Usage in Federal Government Programs*, mandated that federal agencies prepare metric transition plans, add metric units to their publications, and work with other governmental, trade, professional, and private sector metric organizations on metric implementation.

In the building design and construction community the application of SI units, together with preferred numerical values, will simplify and speed up calculations and facilitate all measurement intensive activity.

This document has been prepared to provide a single, comprehensive, and authoritative standard for SI units to be used in building design, product manufacture, and construction applications.

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