



[ConsensusDOCS Updates Its Forms](#)



As reported recently in [ENR Magazine](#), among other publications, the [ConsensusDOCS](#) folks have updated their contract forms. Why is this news?

First of all, it's only been around three and a half years since these documents were officially released and this release is about 18 months sooner than anticipated (the original revision cycle was to be 5 years). Why the revision? According to my friend and counsel to ConsensusDOCS, Brian Perlberg, one major rationale is that

the economics of the construction industry today looks nothing like it did [in 2007]

Among the changes are several terminology changes ("constructor" instead of "contractor" for instance), the addition of mandatory green building design as a basic service (these forms already have a [Green Building Addendum](#)) if included in the Owner's plan and the ability to provide for prevailing party attorney fees (before both sides of a dispute bore their own fees).

A couple of other notable provisions allow an Owner to audit a contractor's books and a better placed and defined definition of Contract Documents. These are not all of the changes, and the revisions are fairly extensive.

I recommend that you review the ENR article, any sample forms, and consult with a [construction attorney](#) to determine how these changes affect your present use of the ConsensusDOCS (if you use them) or if you should consider using them for your projects.

Image via [Wikipedia](#)

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