

CRB – Standards for construction

The Swiss Research Centre for Rationalization in Building and Civil Engineering (CRB) is Switzerland's foremost competence centre for standardization in the construction and real estate sectors. Founded as an association (the abbreviation «CRB» stems from the original French name «Centre Suisse d'études pour la Rationalisation du Bâtiment»), it boasts a 65-year track record in improving communication between clients, designers, contractors and suppliers.

It collaborates with construction professionals and practitioners as well as partner organizations to develop tools, which are made available in the form of catalogues, web applications and data for software programs. Clear terminology, a uniform system architecture and structured data formats pave the way for the industry-wide exchange of information. CRB's products facilitate the optimization of processes, the uniform calculation, comparison and analysis of costs for built assets, the specification of works, and the clear definition of colours and building materials.

Ensuring everyone speaks the same language

To meet the needs of the Swiss construction community, CRB offers reliable, up-to-date standard tools for use across the entire life cycle of a building or structure – from design and construction to facility management: the **Catalogue of Standard Descriptions (CSD)** provides the foundation for the standardized, legally certain specification of construction works and services. The **cost classifications** allow construction project costs to be arranged by either trades/work sections (Building Cost Classification – BCC) or elements (Element-Based Cost Classification for Building Construction/Civil Engineering – eCC-BC and eCC-CE). The **werk-material.online** platform offers a reliable, transparent source of cost rates gathered from over a thousand projects. The **Natural Colour System (NCS)**, for which CRB is the exclusive distributor in Switzerland, sets the framework for precise colour communication.

Transformation in step with the digital age

To fully exploit the opportunities unlocked by digitization, an innovative approach to the new challenges is essential. That is why CRB continuously refines its standard tools while working intensively to put in place a continuous, end-to-end information management system. The new **eCC plug-in** allows the uniform, part-automated categorization of elements in accordance with the element-based cost classification directly in the CAD authoring software – and thus an exact, reliable determination of quantities. The **BIM Profile Server** facilitates the precise and consistent specification by professionals of the data and information which they need or have to deliver.

Advancement through CPD

CRB's continuing professional development (CPD) programmes are geared to the needs of the construction industry and promote the proper application of its standard tools. The digital transformation plays a pivotal role: apart from offering courses covering the basics and providing updates on changes, CRB supports and oversees the digital transition with tailored services, e.g. status reviews and corporate diagnostics.

CRB in brief

- Founded in 1959
- 78-strong staff in Zurich, Fribourg and Bellinzona
- Over 4,500 association members
- Over 7,000 licensees
- Approx. 35 CRB-certified software partners
- Close collaboration with around 70 professional and trade associations
- Some 200 CSD work sections containing over 1.3 million standard descriptions in 3 languages
- Over 100 CPD courses per year

Management

President: Amadeo Sarbach

Chief Executive Officer: Michel Bohren

