

## Universal method to report carbon in buildings and infrastructure launched

An international coalition of construction experts has today (29 November 2021) published the world's first universal standard for reporting carbon dioxide emissions used in the building and lifecycle of structures – also known as 'embodied and operational carbon' within the industry.

The International Cost Management Standard – or ICMS3 – sets out a methodology for construction professionals and developers to account the amount of embodied carbon their projects will create, whether that's through the delivery of new roads, schools, offices, housing or railways.

An estimated 40% of global carbon emissions are emitted every year through the construction of new buildings and infrastructure, and the industry has accepted it must adapt in order to meet the pressing need to avert climate catastrophe.

The launch of ICMS3 represents the starting pistol being fired for the construction sector to embrace net-zero as a global, interconnected industry, and follows the COP-26 climate conference in Glasgow (UK) where world leaders set bold targets to avert a global disaster.

**Alan Muse, Head of Construction Standards at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, said:**

"De-carbonisation of construction is now essential to meet the goals of COP 26. Critically, to achieve this, we need globally standardized reporting systems – unless we measure it, we cannot manage it.

"The use of ICMS 3 will benefit all construction stakeholders who wish to reduce carbon for a combination of compliance, market and societal reasons and also drive innovation in terms of alternative designs and solutions."

**Justin Sullivan, Chair of the ICMS Coalition and Construction Industry Council, added:**

"The ICMS journey has been a beacon of how collaboration works. We have 49 international public benefit bodies that have together created world class standards in the construction and infrastructure sectors.

"When it comes to international standards for costs, life cycle and carbon in construction we are the only show in town, true pioneers.

"The timing of the launch of ICMS3, THE standard for carbon in construction could not be better with the world stage digesting and implementing the outcomes of COP26. Onwards and upwards.

**-ENDS-**

**The International Cost Management Standard (ICMS3) can be found and read for free via the RICS website here: <https://www.rics.org/nl/>**

**This publication (on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November) follows a consultation that took place earlier this year and sought the views from all sides of the construction industry.**

**The ICMS is supported by a coalition of international organisations, including:**

Africa Association of Quantity Surveyors (AAQS)  
Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering International (AACE)  
Association of Cost Engineers (ACostE)  
Association of South African Quantity Surveyors (ASAQS)  
Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (AIQS)  
Brazilian Institute of Cost Engineers (IBEC)  
Building Surveyors Institute of Japan (BSIJ)  
Canadian Association of Consulting Quantity Surveyors (CACQS)  
Canadian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (CIQS)  
Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)  
Chartered Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors (CICES)  
China Electricity Council (CEC)  
China Engineering Cost Association (CECA)  
Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy (CASLE)  
Conseil Européen des Economistes de la Construction (CEEC)  
Consejo General de la Arquitectura Técnica de España (CGATE)  
Dutch Association of Quantity Surveyors (NVBK)  
European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations (EFCA)  
Fédération Internationale des Géomètres (FIG)  
Fiji Institute of Quantity Surveyors (FIQS)  
Ghana Institution of Surveyors (GhIS)  
Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS)  
Ikatan Quantity Surveyor Indonesia (IQSI)  
Indian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (IIQS)  
Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET)  
Institute of Quantity Surveyors of Kenya (IQSK)  
Institute of Quantity Surveyors Sri Lanka (IQSSL)  
Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)  
Institution of Surveyors of Kenya (ISK)  
Institution of Surveyors of Uganda (ISU)  
International Cost Engineering Council (ICEC)  
Italian Association for Total Cost Management (AICE)  
Korean Institution of Quantity Surveyors (KIQS)  
Fachverein für Management und Ökonomie im Bauwesen (maneco)  
New Zealand Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NZIQS)  
Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NIQS)  
Pacific Association of Quantity Surveyors (PAQS)  
Philippine Institute of Certified Quantity Surveyors (PICQS)  
Property Institute of New Zealand (PINZ)  
Quantity Surveyors International (QSi)

Real Estate Institute of Botswana (REIB)  
Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)  
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)  
Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia (RISM)  
Singapore Institute of Building Limited (SIBL)  
Singapore Institute of Surveyors and Valuers (SISV)  
Sociedad Mexicana de Ingeniería Económica, Financiera y de Costos (SMIEFC)  
Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland (SCSI)  
Union Nationale des Economistes de la Construction (UNTEC)

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We are RICS. Everything we do is designed to effect positive change in the built and natural environments. Through our respected global standards, leading professional progression and our trusted data and insight, we promote and enforce the highest professional standards in the development and management of land, real estate, construction and infrastructure.

Our work with others provides a foundation for confident markets, pioneers better places to live and work and is a force for positive social impact.