

## MasterFormat®: Division 08 vs. 28

Anyone who has ever specified a project knows that it can be tedious, and sometimes difficult and confusing. It's easy to become overwhelmed, considering all of the components that must come together in a building. And with all of the parties involved in today's construction process, it's important that these components are communicated and coordinated correctly from the beginning.

MasterFormat®, a standard for organizing specifications and written information about building projects, helps coordinate all of the pieces to the puzzle. The Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) and Construction Specifications Canada (CSC) created the uniformed outline to make information easy to navigate by architects, contractors and others involved with a project. Currently, MasterFormat consists of 50 divisions.

The good news is that when it comes to securing an opening, you generally only need to focus on two divisions: Division 08 (doors and door hardware) and Division 28 (electronic safety and security). Sounds simple, right? Not quite.

Despite advancements in technology, Division 28 received few revisions between its introduction in 2004 and the most recent edition. So as electronics like integrated locks grew evermore prevalent in the security industry, so did confusion about where to specify these and other access control components. This led to products either being specified twice or being overlooked altogether — both of which can be costly mistakes. Additionally, Part 3 items such as installation, keying and commissioning were often missed or not coordinated between the two divisions, creating requests for information and delays during construction.

### MasterFormat 2016

The Security Industry Association (SIA) worked with CSI to revamp the electronic safety and security section for the current edition, MasterFormat 2016. Approved changes moved a majority of electronic devices at an



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opening to Division 28. While many were excited to have more clarification over the 08 versus 28 dilemma, it has left some scratching their heads — including Allegion Strategic Architectural Account Manager T.J. Gottwalt AHC/CDC, FDAI, CSI, CCPR, CM-BIM.

“I think the 2016 changes are misunderstood,” he says. “The changes took a lot of products that were typically in Division 08 and moved them to Division 28, like delayed egress devices, non-integrated locksets, keypad lockets, stand-alone locksets and electric strikes. Just because these devices have a wire or are electronic, they were moved. However, they are not intelligent; they require no logic.”

Gottwalt is in agreement that some products needed to be moved, such as power supplies, door position switches, card readers and locks that are integrated into access control. The integration is a key part in determining the line of demarcation for him and Allegion's team of architectural and specification consultants.

"Integrators provide the access control systems — and 'systems' is the key word here. They provide the integrated locks as part of those systems. These locks talk to the system, they work with the system. It makes sense that they include these integrated, smart devices in Division 28. But most door hardware products that Allegion provides make more sense in Division 08, even though they may have a wire."

### Recommendations

"Most specifiers are not following what MasterFormat is recommending right now because it causes more confusion, but we will see where that goes," says Gottwalt. "We are doing what we think makes sense, in a way that architects and suppliers will understand. Regardless, at the end of the day, it comes down to communication and coordination."

### Communicate:

The most important part is to communicate upfront. Get everyone involved, including the electrical engineer, security consultant, architect, contractor and anyone else who is going to be involved with the project.

"Every project where we have conducted a coordination meeting and discussed these things, the project has gone as smooth as silk," says Gottwalt. "I was working on an assisted living facility with six buildings, so I met with the security consultant, contractor, integrator and other key players. And it's a good thing because the security consultant wanted to include the power supplies in a different section than we would have originally specified. They ran one power supply to all access controlled openings instead of one for each opening. In the end, they specified the power supply and I referenced it in my section."

### Coordinate:

Coordination is key. Once it has been decided where each component will be specified, it's necessary that you reference related sections where appropriate. For example, if you have an integrated lockset like the Schlage® AD-400, it belongs in Division 28. But you need to make sure you coordinate with the hardware sets in Division 08, indicating that more specific information can be found in Division 28.

“With electronic access control in particular, it's critical to discuss your approach in advance.”

"These systems can integrate with so many aspects of a building that planning must happen at the start of a project. This ensures nothing is missed or double specified," adds Gottwalt.

Nobody wants to be in a situation where hardware has been specified, purchased and installed, then when it comes time to pull the wiring to the opening, the lock hardware and security components have not been coordinated properly. It's not an uncommon scenario, and both sides end up pointing fingers. An additional tool to assist with this coordination is a riser diagram for any door opening where electrified hardware occurs. This helps the electrical engineer and electricians understand where wiring will be run at each opening.

There is a lot at stake. It is imperative that all parties have a clear understanding of how the security system and door hardware — mechanical and electronic — work together. An architectural hardware consultant can ensure this process goes smoothly. Allegion's team of consultants will help review or write specifications for your next project, collaborating with the security consultant, end user and other players throughout the process. They are also code experts, so you can trust them to ensure all openings meet building and accessibility code requirements.

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Allegion has a team of more than 150 specification writers located around the world who would be happy to assist on your next project. [Contact an Allegion specification writer](#), or check out the [iDig Hardware blog](#) for information and updates on door hardware codes.

## About Allegion

Allegion (NYSE: ALLE) is a global pioneer in safety and security, with leading brands like CISA®, Interflex®, LCN®, Schlage®, SimonsVoss® and Von Duprin®. Focusing on security around the door and adjacent areas, Allegion produces a range of solutions for homes, businesses, schools and other institutions. Allegion is a \$2 billion company, with products sold in almost 130 countries. For more, visit [www.allegion.com](http://www.allegion.com).

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011733, Rev. 06/17  
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