

SpecLink

10 Ways to Elevate Your Spec Writing

RIB (formerly BSD) specification expert Chip Bullock talks to AEC professionals daily about the challenges they face as they strive to achieve more efficient workflows, embrace digital technologies, and save both time and money on specifications. Bullock thoroughly understands these challenges from the architect's perspective, and here shares the answers to some of those most frequent questions.

1 BIM integration

How can I make BIM integration work for me?

SpecLink's common SQL data environment is compatible with the Revit platform. Our BIM integration tools provide visualization to help prevent breakdowns in design intent between stakeholders.

Our approach is flexible; we don't force a particular workflow or absolute relationship between BIM elements and specifications. It's also all in the cloud for ease and flexibility.

2 Enhanced collaboration

How can *SpecLink* help with collaboration between designers, specifiers and other project participants?

We provide collaboration tools within a common data environment to connect stakeholders and track changes as your projects advance. The cloud makes it easy to share and review specifications with design partners, owners, consultants and contractors.

You can access projects on any browser-enabled device and set restrictions to control who has access to the information.

3 Continuous updates

How can I be sure that reference standards and content in my master are kept current?

RIB's continuous updates are unmatched in the industry. Our in-house content team makes daily updates to keep standards and code references current, and improve content. In 2018 alone, we made over 2,100 updates and additions.

4 Software evolving with industry feedback

How can I be sure the software I choose will continue to evolve with the industry?

RIB has the most innovative and technologically advanced software on the market, with continuously updated content.

We know how important it is to learn from our subscribers, and are committed to developing new solutions to industry needs through frequent content and product updates.

Our new *Specification Content and User Experience Advisory Committee* made up of industry experts from leading firms reflects our deep commitment to ensuring the needs of our users are met.

5 Customization

Can I really curate my own content faster and better?

100%. Our import-friendly technology enables you to bring your favorite content into *SpecLink*, where you can take advantage of the RIB suite of tools. Embrace new possibilities with automation and intelligent tools that can make your content easy to maintain and update.

6 Efficiency

Can *SpecLink* help me make decisions on design intent and coordinate cross-referenced information?

Our intelligent linking and deductive reasoning is integrated into the *SpecLink* user experience. We provide direct access to reference standards and building product manufacturers that we cite within the application. Intelligent linking, normalized reference standards and global terms allow you to eliminate repetitive administrative edits so you can focus on more important tasks.

7 Editing by selection

Does the guide specification preserve my thought process? I can't lose the big picture while I focus on the details.

When you edit in *SpecLink*, master text is never deleted; you simply turn it on or off, and only the text that is "on" is assembled into the project specifications. Master text that you don't include is always available for reference or inclusion later – and to prompt additional decisions when something changes, or other alternatives need to be considered.

8 Formatting

Do I have to create three different documents to cover outline, short form and full spec deliverables?

With *SpecLink*, you can collapse the master project to produce pre-edited outline specifications, expand it partially to produce short form specs, and expand it fully for construction documents. You can edit as needed at any phase to adapt the master specifications to your specific project.

9 Specification writing guidance

How can *SpecLink* help me specify better than other guide specifications?

Our series of supporting documents and master notes provide deep knowledge and insight into how we created a section, including what we researched, and offer guidance on how to specify the work results in a section.

10 Design criteria

Can *SpecLink* help me communicate early design intent?

Yes. The ability to use *SpecLink* across all the phases of construction is one of our strongest attributes. Our design criteria catalog enables you to lay out requirements in preliminary project description/Uniformat structure to connect cost estimating with design and performance requirements.

Chip Bullock, AIA, CSI, CSC, LEED AP BD+C
Former Director of AEC Content
RIB (formerly BSD)

A registered architect with over 30 years of diverse experience, Bullock has been actively involved in planning, architecture and engineering design, including development of construction specifications. At RIB, Bullock managed the team responsible for developing, updating and managing all AEC content.

