

Abbreviation Master Guide

A practical, structured reference for everyone working to BS EN ISO 19650 and the UK National Annex. Fourteen sections, every term explained in plain language, with the context in which you will actually meet it.

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Scope	ISO 19650 terminology, openBIM, file formats, classification, status and revision codes, asset management and legacy terms
Aligned to	BS EN ISO 19650-1 to -6 and the 2021 UK National Annex
Audience	Information managers, BIM coordinators, design and drawing office teams, and anyone preparing for interviews or assessment
How to read it	Sections 1 to 4 first, then use the rest as a lookup

14 SECTIONS · 169 TERMS EXPLAINED · WORKED EXAMPLES THROUGHOUT

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Every table uses the same five columns: the abbreviation, what it stands for, a plain-English explanation, where and when you meet it, and a worked example from real project use. Read the example first if a definition feels abstract.

Sections marked **ESSENTIAL** are the ones to learn before anything else. Sections marked **REFERENCE** are for looking up as needed. The section marked **LEGACY** exists so you recognise outdated terms, not so you use them.

Section 14 is the fast route: the twenty abbreviations worth memorising first, followed by the whole ISO 19650 process as a single readable chain.

CONTENTS

No.	Section	What it covers	Priority
01	Core BIM and ISO 19650 terminology	The backbone terms: requirements, plans, models and quality	Essential
02	The ISO 19650 family	Parts 1 to 6 and what BS EN ISO actually means	Essential
03	Parties and teams under ISO 19650	Who appoints whom, and which team does what	Essential
04	openBIM and interoperability	IFC, BCF, IDS, bSDD and the exchange standards around them	Essential
05	File formats, coordination software and platforms	What you send, and the platforms you send it through	Reference
06	Model coordination and digital construction	AEC, off-site manufacture and the 4D to 7D labels	Reference
07	Surveying, reality capture and digital technologies	Scanning, positioning and reality-to-model workflows	Reference
08	Asset management, facilities management and handover	COBie, FM systems and the operational phase	Essential
09	Sustainability and lifecycle information	Carbon, cost-in-use and certification evidence	Reference
10	UK construction, procurement and legal terminology	CDM, the Building Safety Act regime and tender documents	Reference
11	Uniclass classification tables	The tables you must be able to recognise on sight	Essential
12	Information container control: status, revision and CDE states	Status codes, revision codes and the CDE lifecycle together	Essential
13	Legacy terminology you should recognise	Superseded terms, and what replaced them	Legacy
14	Quick start: what to memorise, and the whole process in one page	Twenty priority abbreviations, plus the process as a diagram	Essential

01 CORE BIM AND ISO 19650 TERMINOLOGY

ESSENTIAL

These are the terms to learn first. They form the backbone of information management under ISO 19650, which BSI describes as a lifecycle information-management approach covering concepts, project delivery, operations, information exchange, security and health and safety.

Abbreviation	Full Meaning	Simple Explanation	Where / When Used	Example
BIM	Building Information Modelling	A collaborative process for creating, managing, exchanging and using structured information about built assets.	Whole asset lifecycle	BIM is used to coordinate architectural, structural and MEP information before construction.
IM	Information Management	The process of defining, producing, checking, sharing, approving and maintaining information.	ISO 19650 / all project stages	The Information Manager establishes workflows for project information.
CDE	Common Data Environment	The agreed workflow and solution used to collect, manage and exchange information.	ISO 19650 / project collaboration	Drawings and models move through the CDE from WIP to Shared and Published states.
OIR	Organizational Information Requirements	High-level information an organisation needs to achieve its strategic and business objectives.	Organisation / asset strategy	An organisation may require information about energy consumption across its property portfolio.
AIR	Asset Information Requirements	Information needed to operate, maintain and manage an asset.	Asset management / operational phase	The AIR may require manufacturer, warranty and maintenance information for plant equipment.
PIR	Project Information Requirements	High-level information needed to support decisions during a specific project.	Project initiation / client requirements	The PIR may require cost, programme and performance information at key decision points.
EIR	Exchange Information Requirements	Detailed information requirements associated with an appointment and information exchange.	Procurement / appointments / ISO 19650	The EIR may require IFC models, COBie information and particular delivery dates.
BEP	BIM Execution Plan	The delivery team's proposed approach to meeting information-management requirements.	Tender and project delivery	The BEP describes responsibilities, software, federation, CDE workflows and information delivery.
TIDP	Task Information Delivery Plan	Plan identifying the information a particular task team will produce and when.	Task-team planning	The roofing task team's TIDP lists models, drawings and schedules with planned delivery dates.
MIDP	Master Information Delivery Plan	Coordinated plan formed from the delivery team's TIDPs.	Lead appointed party / project delivery	Architectural, structural and subcontractor TIDPs are coordinated into the MIDP.
PIM	Project Information Model	Information model developed during design and construction.	Delivery phase	Approved drawings, models and schedules collectively contribute to the PIM.
AIM	Asset Information Model	Information model used to support operation and management of the completed asset.	Operational phase	Asset data handed over at completion contributes to the AIM.
LoIN	Level of Information Need	Defines the amount and quality of geometrical, alphanumerical and documentation information needed for a purpose.	Information requirements	A steel connection may need precise geometry for fabrication but less information during concept design.
LOD	Level of Detail / Level	Common industry terminology	Model production	A concept model has less

Abbreviation	Full Meaning	Simple Explanation	Where / When Used	Example
	of Development	describing model detail or development; definitions vary between frameworks.		geometric development than a fabrication model.
LOI	Level of Information	Older / common terminology describing non-geometrical information associated with objects.	Legacy BIM / BIM Toolkit workflows	A door object may include fire rating, manufacturer and acoustic data.
WIP	Work in Progress	Information still being developed within its originating task team.	CDE workflow	A Tekla model being edited internally remains WIP until checked and approved for sharing.
QA	Quality Assurance	Processes intended to prevent information-quality problems.	Organisational / BIM management	A BIM QA procedure defines how models must be checked before issue.
QC	Quality Control	Checking actual deliverables to identify errors or non-compliance.	Model / drawing checking	QC identifies incorrect file names and missing object properties before submission.
RFI	Request for Information	Formal request for clarification where information is incomplete or unclear.	Design / construction	A contractor raises an RFI about an unclear roof interface.
RACI	Responsible, Accountable, Consulted, Informed	Matrix identifying how responsibilities are allocated.	Responsibility planning	The BIM coordinator may be Responsible for federation while the project lead is Accountable.
KPI	Key Performance Indicator	Metric used to measure performance.	BIM / project management	On-time information delivery of 95% or above can be a BIM KPI.
NCR	Non-Conformance Report	Formal record identifying work or information that does not comply with requirements.	QA / construction	An NCR may be raised when installed work differs from approved information.
TQ	Technical Query	Request seeking technical clarification.	Design / construction	A subcontractor issues a TQ regarding an interface between cladding and steelwork.

How the requirements connect

OIR leads to PIR and AIR, which are translated into the EIR, answered by the BEP, planned through TIDPs and the MIDP, and delivered as the PIM and then the AIM. Section 14 sets this out step by step.

Source note UK BIM Framework: PIR are high-level project needs, while EIR translate required exchanges into appointment-level requirements.

02 THE ISO 19650 FAMILY

ESSENTIAL

The standards themselves, and the naming convention used on their front covers.

Standard	Full Meaning	Simple Explanation	Where / When Used	Example
ISO	International Organization for Standardization	International standards organisation.	International standards	ISO publishes the ISO 19650 series.
BS	British Standard	Standard adopted or published for use in the UK by BSI.	UK	BS standards are commonly referenced in UK construction appointments.

Standard	Full Meaning	Simple Explanation	Where / When Used	Example
EN	European Standard	Standard adopted at European level.	Europe / UK	EN standards can also become British Standards.
BS EN ISO	British adoption of a European adoption of an ISO standard	Indicates that the international standard has also been adopted as a European and British Standard.	UK specifications	BS EN ISO 19650-2 is the UK version of ISO 19650-2.
ISO 19650-1	Concepts and Principles	Establishes core information-management concepts and terminology.	All lifecycle stages	Used to understand information requirements, information models and CDE principles.
ISO 19650-2	Delivery Phase of the Assets	Defines information-management processes during project delivery.	Design and construction	Covers tendering, appointment, mobilisation, collaborative production and information delivery.
ISO 19650-3	Operational Phase of the Assets	Applies information-management processes during asset operation.	Facilities / asset management	Used when maintaining the AIM during operation.
ISO 19650-4	Information Exchange	Defines requirements around information exchanges.	Information delivery	Helps ensure information exchanges are planned, checked and accepted.
ISO 19650-5	Security-Minded Approach to Information Management	Addresses security risks relating to sensitive information and built assets.	Government / defence / critical infrastructure	Sensitive model information may require controlled access.
ISO 19650-6	Health and Safety Information	Defines collaborative management of structured health-and-safety information.	Design, construction and operation	Hazards and safety information can be associated with assets and shared through lifecycle information processes.

Part 6 is now published

BS EN ISO 19650-6:2025 was published in January 2025 and addresses structured health-and-safety information throughout project and asset lifecycles.

Source note ISO

03 PARTIES AND TEAMS UNDER ISO 19650

ESSENTIAL

A major ISO 19650 concept is the difference between parties and teams. ISO normally spells these names out rather than requiring acronyms, so be careful with informal abbreviations such as AP, which can become ambiguous.

Term	Full Meaning	Simple Explanation	Where / When Used	Example
Appointing Party	Organisation making an appointment	Usually the client or organisation procuring work or information.	ISO 19650	The client appoints the main contractor.
Lead Appointed Party	Organisation appointed to lead a delivery team	Coordinates information from multiple appointed parties.	ISO 19650-2	The main contractor may act as lead appointed party.
Appointed Party	Organisation receiving an appointment	Consultant, contractor or subcontractor delivering information or work.	ISO 19650	A cladding subcontractor can be an appointed party.
Project Team	Everyone involved in delivering the project	Includes appointing party and delivery teams.	Whole project	Client, designers and contractors together form the project team.

Term	Full Meaning	Simple Explanation	Where / When Used	Example
Delivery Team	Lead appointed party plus its appointed parties	Group delivering information under an appointment.	ISO 19650	Main contractor plus architect plus engineering and specialist teams.
Task Team	Individuals or organisations performing a specific task	Produces specific information.	Information production	Structural steel modelling could be one task team.
IM Function	Information Management Function	Activities needed to manage information; it is not necessarily one person's job title.	ISO 19650	Information-management activities can be allocated across several people.

Remember

These are functions and contractual relationships, not mandatory new job titles.

Source note BSI

04 OPENBIM AND INTEROPERABILITY

ESSENTIAL

buildingSMART's current openBIM ecosystem includes IFC, BCF, IDS, bSDD and openCDE-related standards and services.

Abbreviation	Full Meaning	Simple Explanation	Where / When Used	Example
IFC	Industry Foundation Classes	Open, vendor-neutral structured BIM data standard.	Model exchange / openBIM	A Tekla model is exported to IFC and federated with architectural information.
IFC2x3	Industry Foundation Classes 2x3	Older but still widely used IFC schema.	Existing projects / legacy requirements	A client may request IFC2x3 Coordination View exports.
IFC4	Industry Foundation Classes 4	Newer generation IFC schema with improved capabilities.	Modern openBIM workflows	The information standard specifies IFC4 exports.
IFC4.3	IFC 4.3	IFC extension particularly important for infrastructure domains.	Infrastructure / openBIM	Rail and infrastructure objects can be exchanged through IFC4.3.
BCF	BIM Collaboration Format	Open format and API for exchanging model-based issues without sending the whole model.	Clash / issue management	A clash between a beam and duct is issued through BCF.
IDS	Information Delivery Specification	Machine-readable way of defining and checking information requirements.	Model validation	IDS checks that every fire door contains a required FireRating property.
bSDD	buildingSMART Data Dictionary	Online service containing standardised construction terms, properties and definitions.	Semantic consistency	BIM properties can reference standard definitions from bSDD.
MVD	Model View Definition	Defines how a subset or use of IFC should support a particular exchange purpose.	IFC workflows	An MVD may specify the IFC information required for coordination.
IDM	Information Delivery Manual	Methodology for documenting processes and exchange requirements.	openBIM / ISO 29481	An IDM describes who needs which information and at what stage.
BPMN	Business Process Model and Notation	Standard graphical notation for documenting workflows.	Process mapping	BPMN can map an information exchange workflow.

Abbreviation	Full Meaning	Simple Explanation	Where / When Used	Example
openCDE	Open Common Data Environment	buildingSMART initiative and API standards enabling information exchange between connected systems.	System interoperability	Two CDE platforms can exchange information through APIs.
API	Application Programming Interface	Allows software systems to communicate automatically.	Automation / integrations	A CDE API sends issue information to another platform.
GUID	Globally Unique Identifier	Unique identifier assigned to digital objects.	IFC / model databases	An IFC wall retains its GUID when exchanged correctly.
UUID	Universally Unique Identifier	Generic unique identifier widely used by software systems.	Databases / APIs	A platform assigns a UUID to an issue record.

Source note *buildingSMART describes BCF as an open protocol for issue management. IDS 1.0 became an official buildingSMART standard in June 2024 and can automatically test IFC information against requirements.*

05 FILE FORMATS, COORDINATION SOFTWARE AND PLATFORMS

REFERENCE

Formats you will exchange and the platforms you will exchange them through, combined into one lookup so the Navisworks and CDE terms sit alongside the file types they relate to.

Abbreviation	Full Meaning	Simple Explanation	Where / When Used	Example
DWG	Drawing file format	Native and common AutoCAD drawing format.	2D / 3D CAD	Fabrication details are issued as DWG files.
DXF	Drawing Exchange Format	CAD data exchange format.	CAD / CAM exchange	Profile geometry is exported as DXF for fabrication.
RVT	Revit Project	Autodesk Revit project file.	Revit BIM	Architectural model delivered as RVT.
RFA	Revit Family	Revit reusable object or family file.	BIM object libraries	A manufacturer provides a door family as RFA.
DGN	Design File	Bentley / MicroStation design format.	Infrastructure	Civil designers may exchange DGN files.
NWC	Navisworks Cache	Lightweight exported Navisworks coordination file.	Model federation	Discipline models are exported as NWC.
NWF	Navisworks File Set	Navisworks working or federation file referencing model files.	Coordination	The coordinator maintains an NWF linked to discipline models.
NWD	Navisworks Document	Published compiled Navisworks model containing combined information.	Review / coordination	A federated model is issued as NWD for review.
CSV	Comma-Separated Values	Simple tabular text-data format.	Data exchange	Asset register information is exported as CSV.
XLSX	Excel Workbook	Spreadsheet format.	COBie / registers / MIDP	The TIDP may be managed in an XLSX workbook.
XML	Extensible Markup Language	Structured machine-readable data format.	IFC / BCF / other data exchange	BCF file structures use XML.
JSON	JavaScript Object Notation	Lightweight machine-readable data format commonly used by APIs.	CDE / API integrations	Issue information is transferred through a JSON API.
PDF	Portable Document Format	Fixed-format document.	Drawings / reports / specifications	Approved drawings are published as PDFs.

Abbreviation	Full Meaning	Simple Explanation	Where / When Used	Example
gbXML	Green Building XML	Data format for exchanging building geometry and information for energy analysis.	Building-performance analysis	BIM geometry is exported to an energy simulation package.
ACC	Autodesk Construction Cloud	Autodesk cloud collaboration and CDE platform.	Information management	Revit models and drawings are coordinated through ACC.
BIM 360	Autodesk BIM 360	Previous Autodesk cloud collaboration platform branding.	Legacy / current projects	Older projects may still refer to BIM 360.

06 MODEL COORDINATION AND DIGITAL CONSTRUCTION

REFERENCE

Sector terminology, manufacturing links and the dimension labels you will hear in coordination meetings.

Abbreviation	Full Meaning	Simple Explanation	Where / When Used	Example
AEC	Architecture, Engineering and Construction	Collective term for the built-environment design and construction sector.	Industry	BIM is extensively used across AEC organisations.
AECO	Architecture, Engineering, Construction and Operations	Extends AEC to include asset operation.	Whole lifecycle	ISO 19650 addresses AECO information across asset lifecycles.
CAD	Computer-Aided Design	Software-assisted creation of drawings and models.	Design / fabrication	AutoCAD is used to produce 2D fabrication details.
CAM	Computer-Aided Manufacturing	Uses digital information to control manufacturing processes.	Fabrication	CAD geometry can feed a CAM workflow.
CNC	Computer Numerical Control	Computer-controlled fabrication machinery.	Manufacturing	BIM-derived fabrication data may drive CNC equipment.
MEP	Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing	Main building-services disciplines.	BIM coordination	MEP models are federated with structure and architecture.
MEPH	Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing and Heating	Expanded building-services grouping sometimes used.	Coordination	MEPH service routes are checked against structural openings.
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning	Environmental and building services systems.	MEP design	HVAC ductwork is clash-checked against beams.
DfMA	Design for Manufacture and Assembly	Designing components so they can be manufactured and assembled efficiently.	Off-site construction	BIM coordinates prefabricated service modules.
MMC	Modern Methods of Construction	Construction approaches using modern manufacturing and off-site techniques.	Industrialised construction	Volumetric modular construction is an MMC approach.
OSM	Off-Site Manufacturing	Manufacturing construction components away from site.	DfMA / prefabrication	Wall panels are manufactured off site from coordinated digital information.
4D BIM	3D BIM plus Time	Links model objects with programme activities.	Construction planning	Model elements appear according to the construction sequence.
5D BIM	3D BIM plus Time plus Cost	Connects models with programme and cost data.	Cost / project control	Quantity changes update cost forecasts.
6D BIM	Commonly associated with lifecycle and sustainability data	Meaning varies between organisations and frameworks.	Asset / sustainability workflows	Model information is used for operational performance analysis.

Abbreviation	Full Meaning	Simple Explanation	Where / When Used	Example
7D BIM	Commonly associated with FM and asset operations	Industry usage varies and is not a universal ISO classification.	FM	Model-linked asset information assists maintenance planning.

Use the higher dimensions with care

4D and 5D are relatively well-understood industry terms. 6D, 7D, 8D and higher numbers are not consistently defined internationally. Do not treat them as ISO 19650 terminology.

07 SURVEYING, REALITY CAPTURE AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

REFERENCE

Terms that appear when existing conditions are captured and when digital information is taken back to site.

Abbreviation	Full Meaning	Simple Explanation	Where / When Used	Example
GIS	Geographic Information System	System for storing and analysing geographically referenced information.	Infrastructure / planning / asset management	BIM model coordinates are integrated with wider GIS information.
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging	Laser technology used to capture accurate 3D geometry.	Surveying / scan-to-BIM	A building is laser scanned to create a point cloud.
SLAM	Simultaneous Localization and Mapping	Technology allowing a scanner or device to map an environment while determining its location.	Mobile scanning	A mobile scanner captures an existing building while walking through it.
GNSS	Global Navigation Satellite System	Satellite-based positioning technology.	Surveying	GNSS is used to establish project coordinates.
UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle	Drone used for surveys, photography and inspections.	Site monitoring	UAV imagery is used to check roof progress.
VR	Virtual Reality	Fully immersive digital environment.	Design review	A client walks through a proposed building in VR.
AR	Augmented Reality	Digital information overlaid on the real world.	Construction / maintenance	A tablet displays BIM services over the actual ceiling.
MR	Mixed Reality	Combines physical and digital elements interactively.	Construction	A headset displays BIM geometry aligned with installed work.
IoT	Internet of Things	Connected sensors and devices that collect and exchange data.	Smart buildings / operations	Temperature sensors send operational data to the building system.
RFID	Radio-Frequency Identification	Technology for identifying and tracking tagged objects.	Logistics / asset management	Equipment is tracked using RFID tags.
QR	Quick Response	Two-dimensional barcode linking physical objects to digital information.	Site / FM	Scanning a QR code opens the asset's maintenance information.

08 ASSET MANAGEMENT, FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND HANDOVER

ESSENTIAL

Operational-phase terminology, combined with the COBie and handover terms because they describe the same transfer of information from project to operations.

Abbreviation	Full Meaning	Simple Explanation	Where / When Used	Example
COBie	Construction Operations Building information exchange	Structured method for delivering asset information needed for operation and maintenance.	Handover / FM	COBie records spaces, systems, components, manufacturers and maintenance information.
FM Handover	Facility Management Handover	Transfer of operational asset information from project to operations.	Completion	Asset records are checked before being transferred into FM systems.
FM	Facilities Management	Management of buildings, facilities and supporting services.	Operational phase	BIM information is handed over for FM use.
CAFM	Computer-Aided Facilities Management	Software used to manage facilities, spaces and maintenance.	Operations	COBie information can populate a CAFM platform.
CMMS	Computerized Maintenance Management System	Software used to schedule and record maintenance activities.	Operations / maintenance	Air-handling-unit data is transferred into a CMMS.
IWMS	Integrated Workplace Management System	Platform integrating facilities, property, workplace and maintenance information.	Large organisations	BIM asset information feeds an IWMS.
EAM	Enterprise Asset Management	Management of physical assets across an organisation.	Asset-heavy organisations	Equipment information supports EAM processes.
O&M	Operation and Maintenance	Information needed to operate and maintain assets.	Handover / operation	O&M manuals accompany asset handover information.
PPM	Planned Preventive Maintenance	Maintenance scheduled before failure occurs.	FM / operations	Filters are replaced according to the PPM schedule.
BMS	Building Management System	Digital control and monitoring of building systems.	Building operation	The BMS monitors HVAC performance.
EMS	Energy Management System	System used to monitor and manage energy consumption.	Operations / sustainability	Operational energy data is analysed through the EMS.
DT	Digital Twin	Digital representation connected to information about a physical asset; often incorporates live data.	Advanced operations	Sensor data updates a digital representation of the building.

Source note COBie was originally designed to improve structured construction handover information and is used internationally to bring operational information into reusable structured form.

09 SUSTAINABILITY AND LIFECYCLE INFORMATION

REFERENCE

Where model information supports carbon, cost-in-use and certification evidence.

Abbreviation	Full Meaning	Simple Explanation	Where / When Used	Example
LCA	Life Cycle Assessment	Evaluates environmental impacts across the lifecycle of a product or building.	Sustainability	Material quantities from BIM support embodied-carbon LCA.
LCC	Life Cycle Costing	Evaluates costs across an asset's lifecycle.	Asset planning / option evaluation	Two roof systems are compared based on installation and maintenance costs.
EPD	Environmental Product Declaration	Verified information describing a product's environmental impacts.	Carbon / LCA	Steel-product EPD information feeds embodied-carbon assessment.
BREEAM	Building Research Establishment Environmental	UK-originated building sustainability assessment method.	Sustainability certification	BIM information can support evidence for BREEAM assessment.

Abbreviation	Full Meaning	Simple Explanation	Where / When Used	Example
	Assessment Method			
EPC	Energy Performance Certificate	Rating describing building energy performance.	Completed / existing buildings	The building receives an EPC after assessment.

10 UK CONSTRUCTION, PROCUREMENT AND LEGAL TERMINOLOGY

REFERENCE

Roles, regulations and procurement documents that sit around the information-management process.

Abbreviation	Full Meaning	Simple Explanation	Where / When Used	Example
RIBA	Royal Institute of British Architects	UK professional body and publisher of the RIBA Plan of Work.	UK design / project stages	BIM deliverables may be aligned with RIBA stages.
CIC	Construction Industry Council	Representative organisation for UK built-environment professions.	UK construction / information protocols	CIC has contributed to BIM information-management resources.
CDM	Construction (Design and Management) Regulations	UK regulations governing health and safety during construction projects.	Design / construction	Designers must consider foreseeable health-and-safety risks.
BSA	Building Safety Act	UK legislation strengthening building-safety requirements.	Building safety	Digital records may form part of the golden thread.
BSR	Building Safety Regulator	Regulator responsible for building-safety functions in England.	Higher-risk buildings	Certain higher-risk building applications go through the BSR.
HRB	Higher-Risk Building	Building falling within the defined higher-risk regime.	Building Safety Act regime	HRB projects have additional information-management obligations.
AP	Accountable Person	Person or organisation with legal responsibilities for occupied higher-risk buildings.	Operational building safety	The AP maintains relevant building-safety information.
PAP	Principal Accountable Person	Lead accountable person where a building has more than one AP.	HRB operation	The PAP coordinates building-safety responsibilities.
PD	Principal Designer	Dutyholder responsible for coordinating design-stage compliance duties.	CDM / BSA contexts	The PD coordinates design information.
PC	Principal Contractor	Dutyholder coordinating construction activities.	CDM / BSA contexts	The PC manages construction information and compliance evidence.
ITT	Invitation to Tender	Formal invitation asking organisations to submit a tender.	Procurement	EIR and information standards may be included with the ITT.
PQQ	Pre-Qualification Questionnaire	Assessment of potential suppliers before tendering.	Procurement	BIM capability may form part of a PQQ.
RFQ	Request for Quotation	Request asking a supplier for pricing.	Procurement	A supplier receives an RFQ for BIM modelling services.
RFP	Request for Proposal	Request for a proposed solution and commercial offer.	Procurement	The client requests BIM implementation proposals.

Golden thread

For higher-risk buildings in England, current government guidance requires digital, secure and accessible information forming a reliable record, known as the golden thread.

Source note [GOV.UK](#)

11 UNICLASS CLASSIFICATION TABLES

ESSENTIAL

Particularly important in UK BIM because Uniclass is used for structured classification. The live system is updated quarterly; the July 2026 release includes the tables below.

Table	Full Meaning	Simple Explanation	Typical Example
Co	Complexes	Overall complexes containing one or more entities.	University campus
En	Entities	Major independent built entities.	Hospital building
Ac	Activities	Activities taking place within or around assets.	Teaching
SL	Spaces / Locations	Spaces and physical locations.	Classroom
EF	Elements / Functions	Functional parts of an asset.	Roof
Ss	Systems	Systems made from multiple products.	Roof covering system
Pr	Products	Individual products or components.	Insulated roof panel
TE	Tools and Equipment	Tools and equipment.	Mobile crane
PM	Project Management	Project-management information.	Design information
Ro	Roles	Roles undertaken by people or organisations.	Architect
RK	Risk	Classification of risks.	Health and safety risk
Ma	Materials	Construction materials.	Aluminium
PC	Properties and Characteristics	Properties describing objects.	Fire resistance
FI	Form of Information	Type or form in which information is delivered.	Drawing
Zz	CAD	CAD-related classification.	Drawing annotation

System or product? The distinction matters

A roofing system is classified under Ss (for example Ss_30_40... roof covering system), while an individual insulated panel is classified under Pr as a product.

Source note [uniclass.thenbs.com](#)

12 INFORMATION CONTAINER CONTROL: STATUS, REVISION AND CDE STATES

ESSENTIAL

Status, revision and CDE state are three different things that are frequently confused, so they are set out together here. Status says what the information may be used for. Revision says which version it is. The CDE state says where it sits in the workflow.

12.1 Status codes: the current 2021 UK National Annex approach

A great deal of older online material is now wrong on this point, so work from the table below.

Code	Meaning	Simple Explanation	Typical Use
S0	Work in Progress	Still being developed inside the task team.	Internal production

Code	Meaning	Simple Explanation	Typical Use
S1	Suitable for Coordination	Others can use it to coordinate their information.	BIM coordination
S2	Suitable for Information	Supplied mainly for reference or information.	Reference
S3	Suitable for Review and Comment	Issued so someone can formally review and comment.	Design review
S4	Suitable for Review and Authorization	Submitted to the lead appointed party for authorization.	Pre-publication review
S5	Suitable for Review and Acceptance	Submitted for appointing-party review and acceptance.	Client acceptance
A1-An	Authorized and Accepted	Published information; the exact permitted purpose must be defined by the project information standard.	Construction or final issue depending on project
B codes	Deprecated	Older partial-sign-off approach; UK guidance advises against their use.	Legacy projects

Important correction to older material

The 2021 UK National Annex removed S6 and S7, introduced a new S5, and redefined S4. CR was removed and the B codes were deprecated. If a document or website still shows the older codes below, it is describing the 2018 system.

Old code (2018)	Old meaning	Position under the 2021 UK National Annex
S4	Suitable for Stage Approval	Redefined as Suitable for Review and Authorization.
S5	Withdrawn	Reintroduced as Suitable for Review and Acceptance.
S6	Suitable for PIM Authorisation	Removed.
S7	Suitable for AIM Authorisation	Removed.
CR	As-constructed record	Removed.
B codes	Partial sign-off	Deprecated; not to be used.

The five-second version

S1 coordination. S2 information. S3 review and comment. S4 review and authorization. S5 review and acceptance.

12.2 Revision codes

Do not confuse status with revision.

Code	Meaning	Explanation	Example
P01	Preliminary Revision 01	Non-contractual or preliminary information revision.	P01
P02	Preliminary Revision 02	Next preliminary revision.	P02
P01.01	Preliminary Version	WIP development or version beneath a formal preliminary revision.	P01.01 leads to P01.02
C01	Contractual Revision 01	Formal contractual revision.	Construction issue C01
C02	Contractual Revision 02	Next contractual revision.	Revised construction information

Status or revision?

Status answers: what may I use this information for? Revision answers: which version of the information is this? An information container showing Status S1 and Revision P03 therefore means revision 3, suitable for coordination.

Source note UK BIM Framework: unique ID, status, revision and classification form important metadata around information containers.

12.3 CDE states

State	Meaning	Simple Explanation	Example
WIP	Work in Progress	Task team develops information internally.	Designer edits model.
SHARED	Shared	Approved for use by others for an agreed purpose.	Structural model shared as S1.
PUBLISHED	Published	Authorized or accepted information available for agreed project use.	Approved construction information.
ARCHIVED	Archived	Historical record of information transactions and superseded information.	Previous approved revisions retained.

A CDE is a workflow, not a folder

The simplified lifecycle is WIP, then check and review, then Shared, then review, authorise and accept, then Published, then Archived. Dropbox, SharePoint, ACC, Viewpoint and Trimble Connect can provide the technical solution, but the CDE is fundamentally the agreed information-management workflow plus the supporting technology.

Source note BSI describes the CDE as a workflow controlling the agreed source of project and asset information.

Figure 2 in section 14.3 shows these four states as a single flow, with the status codes from 12.1 mapped onto each one.

13 LEGACY TERMINOLOGY YOU SHOULD RECOGNISE**LEGACY**

You will still encounter these on older projects, in older documents and in interview questions. Recognise them, but do not present them as current practice.

Term	Meaning	Current Position
BIM Level 2	Former UK BIM maturity terminology	Legacy. ISO 19650 does not use the old Level 0/1/2 approach.
PAS 1192-2	Specification for information management during project delivery	Withdrawn and superseded by the ISO 19650 approach.
PAS 1192-3	Operational-phase information management	Superseded by ISO 19650-3.
PAS 1192-5	Security-minded BIM	Replaced by ISO 19650-5.
PAS 1192-6	Structured health-and-safety information using BIM	Superseded by BS EN ISO 19650-6:2025.
Employer's Information Requirements	Original meaning of EIR under PAS 1192-2	Current ISO terminology is Exchange Information Requirements.
MPDT	Master Production and Delivery Table	Legacy BIM Level 2 information-delivery planning terminology.
PIP	Project Implementation Plan	Legacy PAS 1192-2 tender and capability terminology.
S6 / S7	Former PIM and AIM authorization statuses	Removed in the 2021 UK National Annex.
CR	As-constructed record status	Removed from the 2021 UK National Annex.

Source note The UK BIM Framework states that the old BIM Level 2 terminology is no longer the ISO 19650 approach, and that the withdrawn 1192 standards should not be treated as the current methodology.

14 QUICK START: WHAT TO MEMORISE, AND THE WHOLE PROCESS IN ONE PAGE

ESSENTIAL

If you are preparing for an assessment, a BIM interview, or a move into information management, start here and use the rest of the guide to fill in the detail.

14.1 The twenty abbreviations to learn first

Priority	Abbreviation	Remember
Essential	BIM	Building Information Modelling
Essential	IM	Information Management
Essential	CDE	Common Data Environment
Essential	OIR	Organizational Information Requirements
Essential	AIR	Asset Information Requirements
Essential	PIR	Project Information Requirements
Essential	EIR	Exchange Information Requirements
Essential	BEP	BIM Execution Plan
Essential	TIDP	Task Information Delivery Plan
Essential	MIDP	Master Information Delivery Plan
Essential	PIM	Project Information Model
Essential	AIM	Asset Information Model
Essential	LoIN	Level of Information Need
Essential	IFC	Industry Foundation Classes
Essential	COBie	Construction Operations Building information exchange
Essential	BCF	BIM Collaboration Format
Essential	IDS	Information Delivery Specification
High	Uniclass	UK construction classification system
High	RFI	Request for Information
High	WIP	Work in Progress

14.2 The ISO 19650 information chain

The easiest way to hold the whole process in your head is as a chain of questions. Each step exists because the step before it asked something the next one has to answer. Requirements are set at the top, the delivery team answers them in the middle, and the information ends up supporting the asset in use at the bottom.

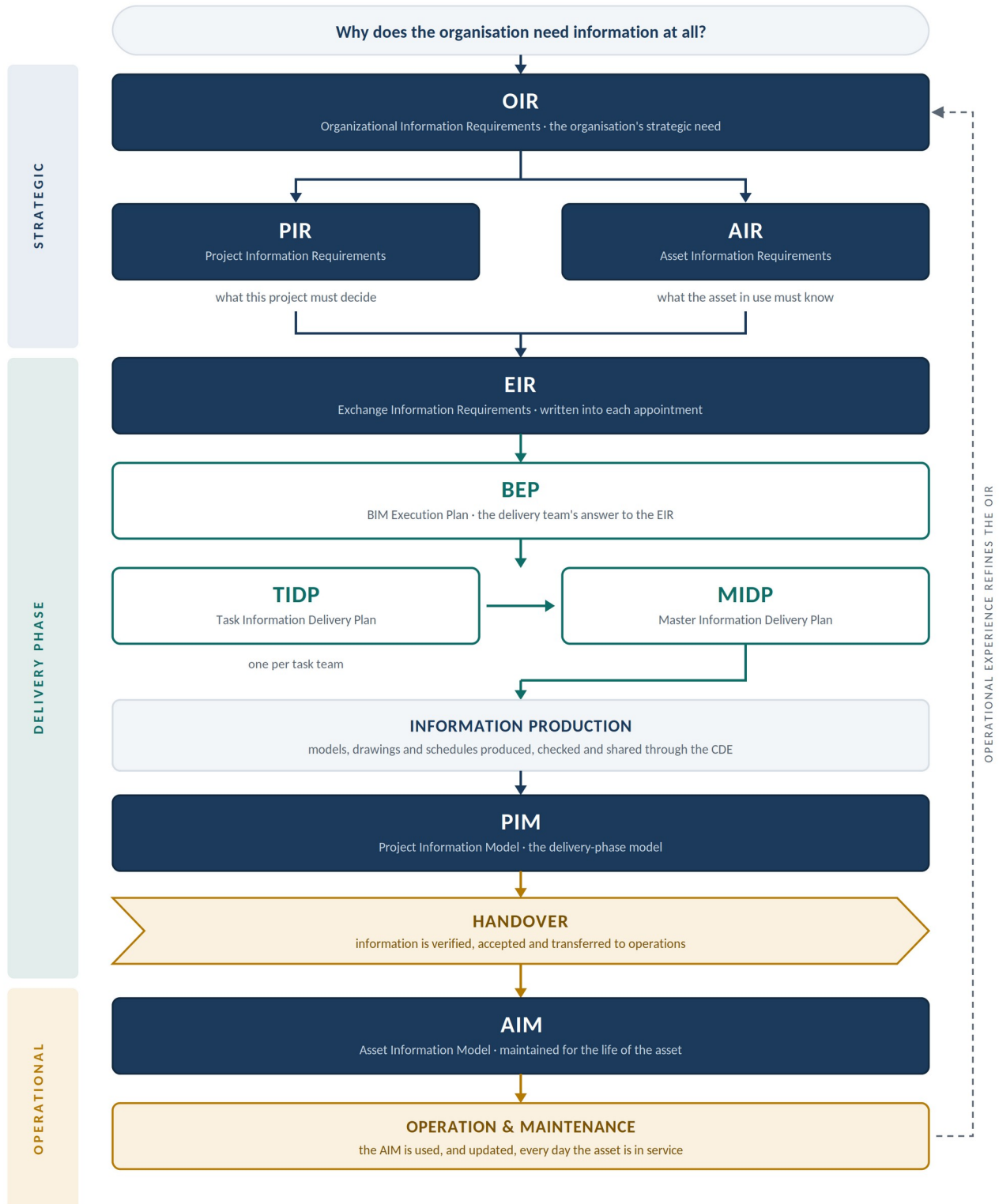


FIGURE 1 From organisational need to asset in use: how the ISO 19650 requirements, plans and models connect.

14.2.1 The same chain, step by step

Step	Abbreviation	The question it answers
1	OIR	Why does the organisation need information at all?
2	PIR and AIR	What does this project, and this asset in use, need to know?
3	EIR	What must each appointment actually deliver, and when?
4	BEP	How will the delivery team meet those requirements?
5	TIDP into MIDP	Who produces which container, and by what date?
6	Information production	The containers are modelled, drawn and scheduled.
7	PIM	The delivery-phase information model is assembled.
8	Handover	Information is transferred from project to operations.
9	AIM	The asset information model supports operation and maintenance.

14.3 How information moves through the CDE

The same container moves left to right, changing status code as it earns the right to be used more widely.



FIGURE 2 The CDE states, and the status codes typically carried at each one.

Step	State	What happens
1	WIP	The task team develops and checks its own information.
2	SHARED	Checked information is shared with the wider delivery team.
3	Review, authorisation, acceptance	The lead appointed party authorises; the appointing party accepts.
4	PUBLISHED	Authorised information is available for the agreed project use.
5	ARCHIVED	Superseded revisions are retained as a historical record.

The point of all of it

For modern UK BIM and information management, this chain is far more useful than memorising the word BIM. The current UK framework is centred on managing the right information, for the right purpose, at the right time, across both delivery and operation, rather than simply producing 3D models.

Source note UK BIM Framework