METRIC SYSTEM

(INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF UNITS – SI)

For the users of this code, we are including a short explanation and some conversion tables to aid in the conversion of our familiar English units to the forthcoming SI units.

This is written with the code users in mind, and will detail only those measurements used in everyday work and calculations. For the scientific units, we recommend the use of ANSI Z210.1, "Metric Practice Guide."

GENERAL COMMENTS

Our present system of measuring involves the three dimensions of force, length and time. The SI units involve mass, length, and time. The change of force to mass has meaning in scientific and engineering work, but for practical use in ordinary construction, we will show kilogram to pounds conversion values, although an exact conversion would be pounds force divided by the acceleration due to gravity to mass units.

In the same manner, the SI units for temperature expressed in Kelvins and based on absolute zero will be given as degrees Celsius, which is the more familiar and practical Centigrade degrees.

The SI system measures angles in radians where there are 2 pi radians in a circle, but using a 1.5708 bend to change from a vertical stack to a horizontal house drain is not as easy as calling out a 1/4 bend or an ell for water piping.

The foregoing notes are intended to show that in making conversions from one unit system to another, a little common sense must be used and the degree of accuracy needed to do the job at hand.

The following tables are set up using this approach and using the preferred SI units.