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## Design management systems

Part 4: Managing design in construction – Guide

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## Summary of pages

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# Foreword

## Publishing information

This part of BS 7000 is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 31 May 2024. It was prepared by Technical Committee B/209, *General design and construction standards*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to the committee manager.

## Supersession

This part of BS 7000 supersedes BS 7000-4:2013, which is withdrawn.

## Information about this document

This is a full revision of the document, and introduces the following principal changes

- improved definition of design management and its integral role within construction projects;
- heightened emphasis on design management as a project function;
- augmented attention to customary design management activities, coupled with comprehensive guidance on good practice for individuals responsible for overseeing such activities;
- elimination of obsolete and informative references pertaining to information management and modelling practices originating from the deprecated specification [PAS 1192-2:2013](#); and
- introduction of inclusive language that embraces the entire and diverse construction industry.

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## Use of this document

As a guide, this part of BS 7000 takes the form of guidance and advisory recommendations. It is not to be quoted as if it were a specification or a code of practice.

## Presentation conventions

The guidance in this document is presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Any recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is “should”.

*Additional commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type.*

Where words have alternative spellings, the preferred spelling of the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* is used (e.g. “organization” rather than “organisation”).

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### Introduction

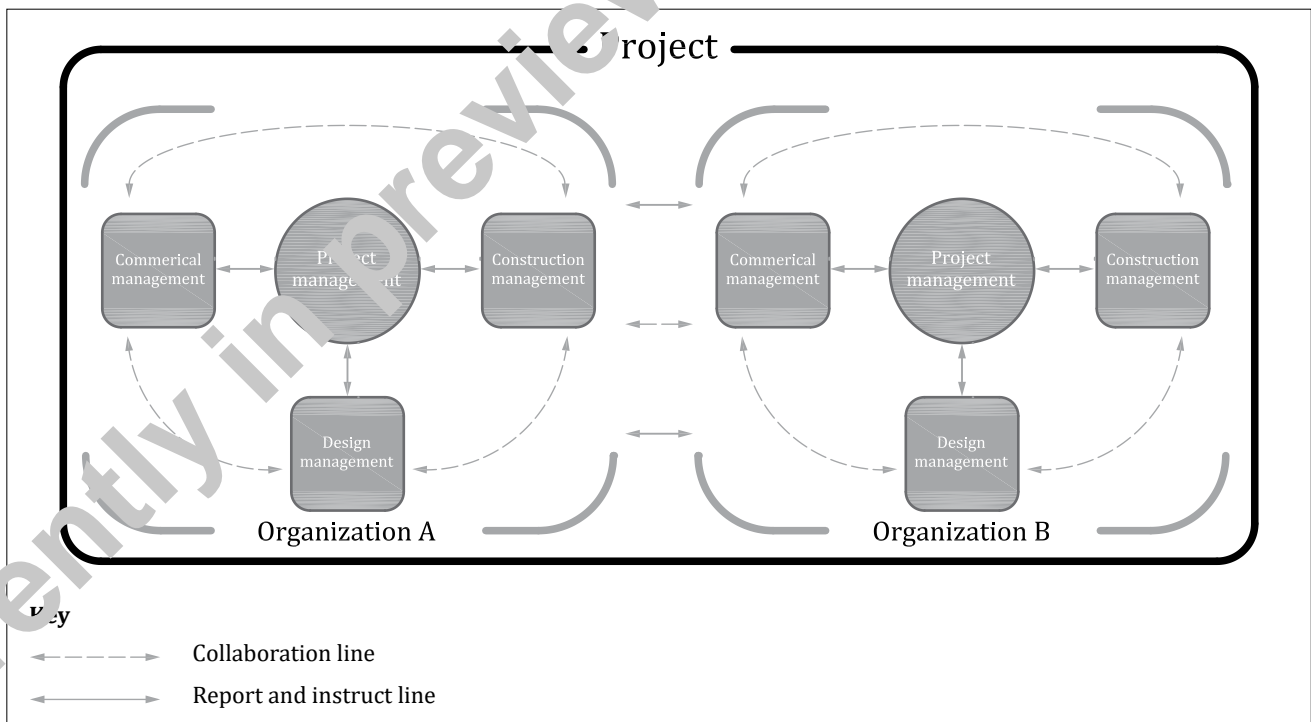
Design management plays a pivotal role in every construction project, encompassing a series of activities dedicated to the development and conclusion of a design process. Its scope extends well beyond the completion of construction, facilitating the proper installation and performance of the finished assets in accordance with the intended design. This function places significant emphasis on effective management of personnel, processes, information, risk and opportunities, with the aim of delivering quality and value within the constraints of the project environment.

In recent years, the significance of design management has grown in response to the escalating complexity of procurement and contractual approaches, accompanied by an increase in safety and sustainability legislation and the need for better definition, coordination and management of specialist products and systems. These developments necessitate a comprehensive handling of the interconnected processes involving people and information.

Whilst design as a process focuses on the parts being designed (how, size, colour, material, strength, performance), design management focuses on processes, resources, information, organizational infrastructure, planning, and the array of compliance checks and distribution of responsibilities that enable design to happen whilst maintaining the programme and collaboration at the heart of each activity.

Design management is often mistaken for project management, although both functions exhibit synergy. Design management, however, is a specialized function that typically operates within the project management framework alongside other functions that have their own distinct objectives and responsibilities, such as the planning, commercial and construction functions typically spread across project teams in various sectors. Figure 1 illustrates the inter-relationship among some of these functions but is not exhaustive. As for other specialized roles, individuals assigned to design management require specific expertise and knowledge relevant to their respective areas of responsibility.

Figure 1 — Functional relationships between organizations managing portions of a design process



## 1 Scope

This part of [BS 7000](#) gives guidance for all types of construction projects on:

- a) the design and construction processes of the built environment; and
- b) the management of design activities throughout the design and construction period.

It is intended for those who work in and with the construction industry, particularly those managing the design process. Where general management principles are given, they may be adapted to suit any size of organization or construction project.

Specific guidance is provided for:

- 1) project clients who initiate projects;
- 2) principal suppliers who report directly to project clients;
- 3) suppliers who report directly to a principal supplier or other suppliers; and
- 4) individuals who lead on behalf of their organizations the management of design processes and information, as well as the people with whom they interface.

*NOTE 1* The terms “principal supplier” and “supplier” are defined in [Clause 3](#).

This part of [BS 7000](#) makes reference to, but does not cover, activities prior to initiation of a project or factors considered by clients/employers when selecting the most appropriate form of construction procurement. Nor does it cover the in-use stage of a project once construction activities have ceased.

*NOTE 2* Guidance on the design of manufactured products and services is given in [BS 7000-2](#) and [BS 7000-3](#) respectively.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes provisions, or limits the application, of this document.<sup>1)</sup> For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

[BS 7000-10](#), *Design management systems – Part 10: Vocabulary of terms used in design management*

## 3 Terms, definitions and abbreviations

### 3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this part of [BS 7000](#), the terms and definitions given in [BS 7000-10](#) and the following apply.

#### 3.1.1 delivery team

principal supplier and the suppliers they engage to help them complete their duties

#### 3.1.2 design management lead

role consisting of one or more individuals who take responsibility for design management function obligations on behalf of their organization

#### 3.1.3 design management plan

document defining how the design is to be managed and any protocols to be adopted

<sup>1)</sup> Documents that are referred to solely in an informative manner are listed in the Bibliography.