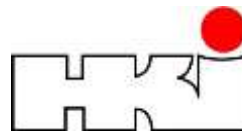




# EFCEM

European Federation of  
Catering Equipment Manufacturers



## Position Paper

BIM in commercial kitchen planning

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## 1. Introduction

The term BIM stands for Building Information Modelling. It is a planning method for the construction and management of buildings using software. Relevant building data are digitally recorded, combined and linked. This planning method is intended to increase the quality and transparency of project information and thus lead to improved project management in terms of costs, deadlines and sustainability.

This working method is also becoming increasingly important in the planning of commercial kitchens. Manufacturers of food service equipment as well as professional planners of commercial kitchens have to deal with this topic so that they do not run the risk of losing orders in the future.

To achieve this, it is necessary to formulate standards for the commercial kitchen sector so that there is a manufacturer-independent understanding of what BIM information must be provided by the equipment manufacturers and in what form.

As the manufacturers of food service equipment are not only active in one market, but mostly internationally, it is essential to think BIM internationally and not just nationally. For this reason, the "International Food Service Equipment (IFSE) Parameter Group" was created. The group includes manufacturers, software houses and consultants from all over the world.

## 2. Objectives

The goal of this initiative is to create a BIM framework for the commercial kitchen sector that is recognized worldwide. Standardized and consistent BIM parameters with standardized ID codes will contribute to a simplified exchange of information. Such standards should improve the cooperation between all parties involved in the planning process. This leads to fewer misunderstandings between the individual stakeholders and design errors are avoided.

### 2. The IFSE Parameter Data Dictionary

This document aims to define uniform BIM parameters that are relevant to commercial kitchen planning and can be used across manufacturers. The IFSE Parameter Data Dictionary was developed on the basis of the FCSI USA REVIT Standard. Since the planning of commercial kitchens is currently carried out mainly with the planning software Autodesk REVIT, the IFSE Parameter Data Dictionary is based on this software with the long-term goal of making the parameters defined in that Data Dictionary also available for other planning softwares.

The list contains the fixed system parameters already specified by the software Autodesk REVIT and the shared parameters, which had been defined by IFSE. The characteristics defined in the IFSE Parameter Data Dictionary each have a specific GUID (Globally Unique Identifier), making them machine-readable and language-independent. The parameters with their specific GUID have already been translated into seven languages.

The technology in the field of commercial kitchens is constantly developing, this must also be taken into account in the IFSE Parameter Data Dictionary. Therefore, the IFSE Parameter Data Dictionary is a living document that must be adapted again and again. For this reason, a current version is published every 3 years.

The IFSE Parameter Data Dictionary creates a common understanding of the parameters required for the creation of BIM families in the professional kitchen sector. Kitchen equipment

manufacturers should therefore use the IFSE Parameter Data Dictionary when creating BIM content. This allows a consistent and standardized creation of BIM Content that can be used by commercial kitchen designers worldwide.

### **3. The Committee „BIM IFSE Group“**

IFSE is an Food Service Equipment Industry Association initiative to which FCSI EAME (Foodservice Consultants Society International – European Africa Middle East) takes active part together with EFCEM (European Federation of Catering Equipment Manufacturers) to conduct the process covering the Europe, Africa and Middle East regions whilst including active participation to FCSI WW so that there is a solution that goes beyond the work of FCSI WW as it includes different languages and Open BIM, not just REVIT. It is chaired by Keith Warren (EFCEM) and Roberto Assi (Designers' Association FCSI EAME).

The committee has set itself the task of advancing these goals on an international level and taking into account the interests of all relevant stakeholders (manufacturers, planers, software houses and consultants).

The Panel's work is based on the US FCSI Revit standards to ensure full interoperability. To ensure that there is a truly international basis for the work, the group includes manufacturers, software houses and consultants from around the world. The group will address the issue of subcategories for Revit, the levels of detail (LOD) and the comment tables submitted to the group to request changes to the IFSE Parameter Data Dictionary.

The committee meets once a year to discuss the above-mentioned topics and to advance them in the interest of all parties involved. All minutes of the meetings are publicly available to make the work of the committee transparent.

### **4. Processes and work flow of the BIM committees**

Anyone is able to request changes to the IFSE Parameter Data Dictionary and contribute these to the BIM working committees in the form of comment tables. Comment tables can be used, for example, to apply for new parameters that are required from a manufacturer's point of view or to adapt existing parameters (e.g. change the data type).

These comment tables will first be discussed in the specific Regional Technical Committees. However, a final decision on an amendment will only be taken by the international body "IFSE Parameter Group", which meets once a year.

If a parameter is rejected by the international decision-making body "IFSE Parameter Group", the applicant will be informed. In addition, the applicant receives a justification why the requested change has been rejected.

The following figure [1] shows the procedure used for requesting changes or adding new parameters.

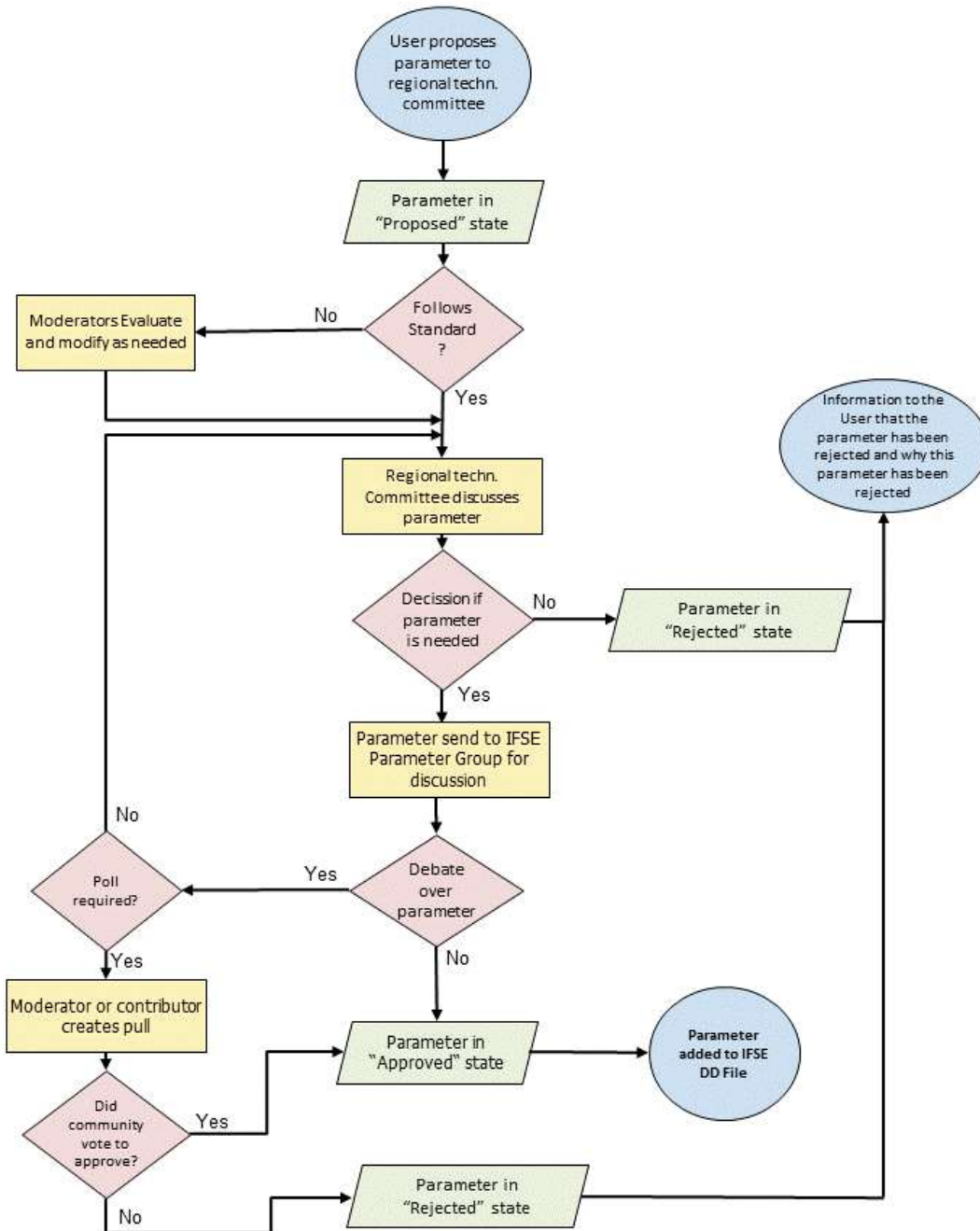


Figure 1: Procedure for changing or new inclusion of parameters

## 5. Conclusion

The work and planning method Building Information Modeling is increasingly finding its way into the planning of commercial kitchens. BIM is a dynamic process which must be constantly developed and adapted. It is important that uniform standards are defined at international level. The decision-making body "IFSE Parameter Group" offers a good platform for this, due to its democratic and transparent way of working. The IFSE Parameter Group makes a valuable contribution to promote the topic of BIM in commercial kitchens on an international level in the interest of all stakeholders.