

# Economy Slips, Use Of ConsensusDOCS Doesn't

Construction spending in January of 2010 reached its lowest level in seven years, the latest statistical kick in the rear to an industry that saw too much of that in 2009. While contractors coast-to-coast make cutbacks, one place they aren't cutting back may surprise you: ConsensusDOCS.

The ConsensusDOCS series of contract documents have been endorsed by over 25 organizations representing nearly all phases of the industry as a risk-balanced alternative to the AIA's construction documents and others. The AGC of America, which had a hand in creating and heavily endorses the documents, revealed late last year that – despite a steep decline in construction volume nationwide – demand for ConsensusDOCS grew by 20 percent in 2009.

“Last year, the ConsensusDOCS gained a lot of traction in the university systems



and in other sectors of the industry, as well,” said Brian Perlberg, Senior Counsel for Construction Law & Contracts for the AGC. Perlberg also serves as Executive Director of the ConsensusDOCS coalition.

“I think companies that have made use of these documents have realized what a positive impact the balancing of risk can have on every project.”

As the industry has changed, ConsensusDOCS has shown the ability even in its infancy to change with it. The catalogue of over 100 contract documents covers all project delivery methods and

now has standardized contracts specifically addressing Building Information Modeling and green building.

“The Green Building Addendum has gotten a lot of attention,” Perlberg stated. “It’s the first document that completely addresses the risks and more clearly defines the roles and responsibilities when it comes to building a green building.

“We’re on the track of offering contractors a way to get better results. These documents offer an easier, faster and more efficient way to go from concept to construction.”



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