

EXPLORING THE APPROPRIATENESS OF REPLACING SLS 573 BY NRM2 AS THE STANDARD METHOD OF MEASUREMENT IN SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

Bill of Quantities (BOQ) is an essential document for the project cost management. However, BOQs are still formed without an appropriate Standard Method of Measurement (SMM). The Sri Lanka Standards 573 (SLS 573) is the local Standard Method of Measurement and it is outdated. As a result Sri Lankan construction industry practices different types of method of measurement. Simultaneously, New Rules of Measurement 2 (NRM2) was introduced as the latest version. The intention of this study is to explore the appropriateness of replacing SLS 573 by NRM2 as the Standard Method of Measurement in Sri Lankan Construction Industry. This research was evaluated through detailed questionnaire survey, semi-structured interviews and secondary data collection methods. Consequently, six experts who have experiences with NRM2 and SLS 573 were interviewed and thirty one industrial practitioners answered to the questionnaire. Statistical analysis tools, relative importance index method and content analysis were used to analyze the data. The major findings of NRM2 in comparison with SLS 573 were identified as it offers a reliable approach from preliminary estimation to maintenance management with the inclusion of new sections and it creates the basis for adaptation to Building Information Modeling (BIM) and new technologies. Thus, the second objective was carried out to identify the possibility of NRM2 to fulfill requirements as the Standard Method of Measurement in Sri Lanka. However the NRM2 hasn't compatible with national specifications and local conditions. Consequently, the responses received from the experts suggested to update the SLS 573 with modifications of NRM2. The research identified available schedules of rates as a barrier to implement a single Standard Method of Measurement in Sri Lanka. Furthermore, this study recommends implementing experimental projects with the use of new Standard Method of Measurement.

Keywords: *New Rules of Measurement, Standard Method of Measurement, Sri Lanka Standards 573*