

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHITE PAPER – Clarifying the Concept of *Design for Release™*
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Brookline, MA, March 05, 2021 – To accelerate the rate of exploration, experimentation, and dissemination of peer learning in the Architecture-Engineering-Construction (AEC) industry, Building AEC Learning, Inc. (BAECL) is further clarifying the concept of *Design for Release™* which was:

- Developed as a key enabler of BAECL’s discussion framework, specifically to support the exploration theme of “Management of Design and Delivery Processes” (June 14, 2018).
- Presented during BAECL’s “Business as Unusual – Learning and Innovating with Peers” workshops at ArchitectureBoston Expo (ABX) (November 29, 2018 and November 07, 2019) and CMAA New England (February 12, 2019).
- Used in combination with Project Conditions of Satisfaction (CoS), Validation, and Execution Strategy as a framework for the discussion about “Using the Last Planner System® During Design” during a webinar organized by vPlanner (February 22, 2021).

Design for Release™ is something that happens on all AEC projects during design development. Specifically, when a design team advances the project’s design sufficiently enough, then...

From a Builder’s perspective, for example, a Builder can issue the contract or a purchase order for:

- A Trade Partner (e.g., a Mechanical Contractor)
- Long-lead items (e.g., elevators)
- Prefabricated / modular units (e.g., pipe racks and wall panels)
- Equipment (e.g., switchgear and air handling units)
- Materials (e.g., natural stone panels for the façade)

In a different vein, from a Designer’s perspective, once a project team settles, for example, the:

- Column span – Then a Structural Consultant can complete the initial selection of structural steel members which then allows them to complete the preliminary foundation design.
- Selection and configuration of structural steel members – Then a Mechanical Consultant can complete the preliminary design of duct heights and pipe runs.

“Stop asking Designers if Design is Complete!” Working collaboratively towards *Design for Release™* is a more productive strategy for project execution than asking the Design Team, “When will design be complete?” For this reason, BAECL advocates the adoption and use of the term *Design for Release™* by high performing teams to improve their ability to develop a common, shared understanding of “who is doing what work and when.” This clarity then helps project leadership better manage key handoffs between project team members – this is especially critical on fast-track projects.