



OUT SOON 2011/2012 NATIONAL SCHEDULE OF RATES

The new 2011/2012 schedules will be available from the 1st August 2011.

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New Mechanical & Electrical Schedules — In response to customer comments and NSR Managements continuing drive to improve the National Schedule of Rates, the 2011/2012 editions of the Mechanical and Electrical Schedules have been recoded to be strictly in line with the structure of the Standard Method of Measurement 7th edition. (SMM7) The aim of these changes has been to improve clarity by removing duplicate items from the schedules. For example in previous Mechanical Schedules Pipework has appeared in sections S17, S27, S60, S62 and S76. In the recoded Mechanical Schedule all pipework appears in Y10. The decision has also been made to remove supply only items as they are deemed unnecessary.

The result of these changes has been to reduce the overall number of items in the M&E schedules enabling NSR Management to add a significant number of additional items without significantly increasing the size of the schedules.

As usual users are encouraged to contact NSR Management Ltd with their requests/suggestions for enhancements/additions to the National Schedules.

National Housing Maintenance Schedule — It has become apparent that there are difficulties with the coding structure of the National Housing Maintenance Schedule so from 2011/2012 the housing schedule will be partly recoded. Whilst the coding for concise descriptions will remain largely unchanged, the coding for the detailed descriptions will be changed to a simple HS prefix. This provides a less complex coding structure enabling the data to be more easily configured to the numerous software systems our customers operate.



NSR Management has begun a collaboration with ESL, a London based database consultancy, to develop and market schedules of rates with added intelligence".

ESL's flagship product, AssetQS, currently saves Southwark Council over £600k per annum on heating repairs by highlighting wasteful expenditure, including blatant overcharging, "so the concept is already well proven" says ESL founder Clive Elsworth. "Instead of being given a monthly list of 30,000 line items and being told to get on with it, Quantity Surveyors can now feed this data into a system that tells them the best places to look for cost reductions." he says.

In addition, simple tools are provided as a custom Excel Add-in, to help automate the process of claiming back the costs.

The "built in intelligence" required by AssetQS includes information such as warranty periods, and lists of rates that would normally include the price of other rates.

After trialling with a group of select customers, we expect to start shipping AssetQS with the enhanced schedules early next year.



CARD PAYMENTS

Over the last year we have had a large number of clients wanting to pay by card when they place their order. We are now able to take card payments over the telephone. If you would like to pay using this method please call us and we will take your card details and process the order.

Sheffield City Council Property & Facilities Management Service are responsible for the corporate portfolio of properties within Sheffield including school buildings.



Keith Wilkie says *"Over the last few years NSR Management have carried out a number of building condition and dilapidation surveys on our Primary Schools and have provided a high quality cost effective service in a timely fashion and with due regard to the needs of the building users. They have demonstrated not only their in depth knowledge of the technical aspects of the service they provide but also their understanding of the sensitive nature of working in an educational environment."*



Dale's Diary

I am now into my third year at NSR Management and have seen many changes and improvements to the schedules. Latest tweaks mean that our schedules will be more user friendly than ever. However, what is striking is the numerous ways in which our customers are now using the national schedules. Traditionally the NSR has always been used as a tendering tool; a pricing mechanism that will eventually form part of a Measured Term Contract. However, changes in the building environment and the economy have proved to clients and contractors that the NSR is also useful tool for the following:

Clients

Benchmarking – to audit whether or not "value for money" is being achieved.

Bespoke Schedules – Inevitably we cannot price every given situation but we can create bespoke items in line with individual specifications. Many of our clients are now using this service to increase the accuracy and representation of the NSR.

Contractors

Estimating – used as a basis for pricing any job not just MTCs.

Sub-Contractor Tendering – it isn't just clients who go out to tender so why can't subcontractors be tendering from the same national benchmarks?

Whether you are a client or a contractor the NSR can now assist you in a variety of ways. To assist you further we now offer a free tailored service which gives you a reported breakdown of the ways in which the NSR can be applied to your business showing you the areas where it can prove "value for money" or maximise your efficiencies.

For a free report of your tailored solution please email dale@nsrmanagement.co.uk

NSR Workshops

We are now holding training sessions at your office or our office on best practice of using the National Schedule of Rates and administering a Measured Term Contract. Training costs start from less than £200 + VAT per person (minimum number of attendees may apply).

- **Benefits of NSR Training**

This training has shown to significantly decrease our clients' costs through better understanding and implementation going forward as well as improving the efficiency and understanding of contractors using the National Schedule of Rates in a Measured Term Contract. **The training at your location can be tailored to suit your own requirements at no extra cost.**

If you are interested in attending one of these workshops or would like further information please contact Dale Jones on 01296 339984 or email dale@nsrmanagement.co.uk