Synopsis

Building Construction Estimating furnishes readers with specific details on how a general building contractor derives the cost of a project before it begins, and how the estimate fits into the total construction process. The book provides coverage of such areas as determining labor productivity and wages, selecting equipment and assigning productivity rates and costs, acquiring specialty contractor prices, and assigning overhead costs and profit. The material is presented from the point of view of a general contractor working on a competitively bid stipulated-sum (lump-sum) contract. However, other contract methods and the effects they have on the estimating process are also discussed. Furthermore, the principles of estimating for the specialty trades are discussed from the reference of a general building contractor, and how the subcontractor’s bid will affect the total project cost is presented. Of special note is the book’s introduction and utilization of computers in the estimating process - enabling readers to utilize new technology in an effective and efficient manner. The book is organized in a way that first teaches the reader to perform many of the estimating activities manually, then guides them in developing a computer spreadsheet. The use of spreadsheets empowers the reader to go beyond the manual calculations and develop new and more proficient solutions to estimating problems.

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