

THIS IS A METRIC JOB

Metric facts:

- n The metric system is the international system of measurement **B** 94 percent of the people on earth use it all the time.
- n The rest of us buy cola in liters, video tape in millimeters, light bulbs in watts, and aspirin in milligrams. We use metric tools on our cars, trucks, and power equipment.
- n Our largest trading partners and closest neighbors, Canada and Mexico, are metric countries.
- n Most major U.S. industries **B** including the automobile, construction equipment, machine tool, electronics, soft drink, liquor, pharmaceutical, and health care industries **B** are primarily or completely metricated.
- n The metric system is based on decimal arithmetic, just like dollars and cents. Once learned, it's simpler to use and less prone to error.
- n In 1988, Congress made the metric system the preferred system of measurement in the United States.
- n Since 1994, billions of dollars of federal, state, and local construction projects of all kinds have been built using the metric system with **no** cost or schedule problems.
- n Metric construction is performed in the *same* way as conventional construction by the *same* people with the *same* skills and the *same* experience and with almost all of the *same* tools, products, and equipment. Little changes but the measurement units.
- n Sometimes it's hard for experienced construction personnel to gain the kind of *Afeel@* for metric units that they have for inches and feet, but with on-the-job practice, thousands have made the change successfully.
- n Adopting the metric system is a good deal for the construction industry. Metrication increases both efficiency and quality and will help American workers stay technologically competitive with their foreign counterparts.
- n Construction metrication brings a large and important part of our economy into the world standard of measurement to benefit all Americans.
- n We only need to make the change **once**. The benefits are perpetual.

8 Construction Metrication Council of the National Institute of Building Sciences, 1998.

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