The 400 Series of the Canadian Design-Build Institute (CDBI) Practice Manual is a guide designed to assist Owners and Design-Builders to understand the Design-Build process.

There are significant differences between the delivery of Design-Build and traditional design-bid-build projects. The major difference is that the Design-Builder assumes the traditional roles and responsibilities of the Consultant and Contractor for both design and construction. The Design-Builder undertakes to design and build a project that meets the Owner's statement of requirements.

The key to delivering a successful Design-Build project is for all participants (Owner, Design-Builder, Consultants, and Contractors) to commit to working together co-operatively for the benefit of the project. It is important that all participants agree to and understand their roles and responsibilities. A co-operative approach reduces decision-making times, administrative costs, and the risk of cost and schedule overruns and disagreements about contract interpretations.

The guide also includes a comprehensive list of Design-Build terminology, information on agreements, schedule & cash flow, payment, changes, dispute resolution, the role of authorities having jurisdiction, to mention a few.

The 400 Series is part of a continuing series of Design-Build manuals that are products of a consensus-building process aimed at balancing the interests of all parties on design-build projects. They reflect recommended industry practices.