

## **PERFECTIONIST; IN A FUNK; OR JUST CANTANKEROUS?**

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Boy! What a choice!

Young or old, chances are one of these choices is the perception assigned to you and most specifications writers. Correct, proper, accurate, complete, etc. seem to escape the minds of others when the crunch comes--as it always does at the end of project document production.

Bonfires erupt seemingly by spontaneous combustion time and time again. *Suddenly* (I have some quarrel with that concept many times) the project takes a squirrely path and something new, different, askew or "revolutionary" arises. Sure! But then many of our clients are all "vascillationists" in nature--big-bucks decisions take time and must pass through too many hands. Also, seems to a new corporate administration process/concept called "spend \$10,000 to save \$10". Interesting!

Guess I am sorry for wherever you are in the "big three" noted above. We all have our load to carry no matter how good we are; how cooperative, outgoing, and coordinated. No matter what we are, there will be handfuls of "mess" that will continue to come to or at us, for rational resolution. Or we will have the high-honor and distinct privilege to participate in the Change Order process--there's another whoopee do!

So do we muddle, carry-on with stiff upper lip, go merrily on our way, or just simply grind it out--in silence and with a prevailing professional spirit that we still retain a smidge of a chance of being "right"?

Well, let's see. We know that perfection is really not our game, since that allusive attribute has yet to exist in the modern world. Accuse as they may, we *ain't* there!

In a funk (hopefully not continually)--well, some of you with hair may have a bad hair day, but the others, like me (hairless by nature or having pulled it all out and not by outgrowing the "salary cap") just have bad days for any combination of a zillion reasons.

So that leaves cantankerous.

Well, you know that may be where we really belong. The clanging gong! The Do-Rights (apology to Dudley) of the world! The voice of correctness, reason and professionalism, personified. Now I think you can be cantankerous, without being fully nasty--fine line but achievable. Perhaps a remnant of the past when things had more structure, and were better defined--and disciplined (not saying today is all bad, but "those" days were very, very different).

And if you can conquer it, a whole hell of a lot of fun (best to keep your laughter inside however)!