

# WebLEM

## MEET THE NEXT GENERATION WEBLEM

Increase your profitability  
with a systematic approach to  
labor estimating streamlined to meet the  
needs of today's contractor.



**Mechanical Contractors Association of America, Inc.**

1385 Piccard Drive Rockville MD 20850 **T** 301 869 5800 **F** 301 990 9690 **MCAA.ORG**

# WebLEM

## Are estimates taking too long and cutting into your company's productivity and profitability?

MCAA's WebLEM can save you time by giving your estimators immediate 24/7 access to a systematic approach to labor estimating that's proven successful for hundreds of mechanical contractors in generating hundreds of millions of dollars in annual construction.

### What is the WebLEM?

The next generation WebLEM brings new benefits to the industry's most reliable, authoritative source for comprehensive labor units for typical project tasks. With the WebLEM, you can quickly search for and retrieve information. The WebLEM also offers you the capability to export data into Microsoft Excel or CSV format for added flexibility. Data in the WebLEM is reviewed and updated periodically to reflect the latest products and joining methods.

### What Labor Units are Covered?

The WebLEM is a reference document on labor hours for assembly of the following products:

- Cleanroom Procedures
- Excavation & Backfill
- Hangers, Sleeves & Inserts
- HVAC Equipment
- HVAC Hook-Ups
- Instrumentation
- Miscellaneous Labor Operations
- Piping Systems
- Plumbing Equipment
- Plumbing Fixtures
- Plumbing Hook-Ups
- Refrigeration Equipment
- Treatment Plant Equipment

### What Estimating Methods are Available?

Piping systems can be estimated using two different methods—the traditional Component Method and the more recently added Work Activity Method.

With the **Component Method**, contractors can choose to estimate labor for items such as branch connections, flanges, pipe, valves, and fittings. In this method, the labor for the item includes joint labor, material handling, testing, and installation.

In the **Work Activity Method**, labor units are associated with each specific activity. Contractors can choose items such as joint labor, cut and bevel, handling and installation, and more. This method assists the contractor in easily estimating shop labor hours versus field labor hours.

### What Other Information is Included?

The WebLEM also includes basic assumptions that were used to develop the labor hours, correction factors to help you adjust to your individual job situation, and a glossary of abbreviations and terms used throughout the WebLEM. Copies of the Management Methods Bulletins referenced in the WebLEM are also included, providing additional information on calculation of delay claims, cost of overtime, impact of shift work, and factors affecting productivity.

### Next Gen WebLEM Benefits

- A complete buildout of the Work Activity Method Labor Units (over 100,000 labor units have been added to the LEM), allowing you to easily identify shop and field labor separately.
- A new folder structure that allows you to view both the component method and work activity method in side-by-side tabs.

# WebLEM

## Are the WebLEM Labor Units Available for My Estimating Software?

Several estimating software providers are licensed to include MCAA labor units in their software packages. To find out if your vendor is included on this list, visit [www.weblem.org](http://www.weblem.org).

## How Can I Subscribe to the WebLEM?

MCAA members will be provided with a password and username to access the WebLEM free of charge, and there's no need to sign a subscription agreement.

Non-members must complete and sign a subscription agreement before they can access the WebLEM. If you need a subscription agreement form, please visit [www.weblem.org](http://www.weblem.org), email [publications@mcaa.org](mailto:publications@mcaa.org) or call us at 301-869-5800. Non-members pay an initial fee plus an annual maintenance fee in order to retain uninterrupted access to the WebLEM.

Our current pricing structure follows.

Item	MCAA Members	Non-Members
Access Fee	Free	\$7,500
Maintenance Fee <i>(billed every January)</i>	Free	\$1,150

## How Often is the WebLEM Updated?

Data in the WebLEM is reviewed and updated periodically to reflect the latest products and joining methods. MCAA members will be provided with a password and username to access the WebLEM free of charge, and there's no need to sign a subscription agreement.

## My WebLEM Subscription Expired. Can I Reactivate It?

In order to reactivate their subscriptions, non-members must pay any overdue maintenance fees. Please contact us at [publications@mcaa.org](mailto:publications@mcaa.org) if you need a replacement invoice.

## What if I Have a Question or Suggestion About the WebLEM?

MCAA is committed to producing a high-quality product that helps you excel in your business. If at any time you have questions or suggestions, we want to hear from you. Please email [publications@mcaa.org](mailto:publications@mcaa.org) or call 301-869-5800 with general questions/suggestions. If your questions or suggestions involve the content and functionality of the WebLEM, please email [nickn@mcaa.org](mailto:nickn@mcaa.org) or call 301-990-2211.

**Visit [www.weblem.org](http://www.weblem.org) for the latest information,  
including more answers to frequently asked questions.**

# WebLEM

## About MCAA's Labor Units

### How is a Labor Unit Expressed?

A WebLEM labor unit is expressed in terms of manhours to install a unit of material (such as a foot of pipe), an individual item (such as a fitting or valve), or perform a specific task (such as welding a joint).

### What is Included in a Unit of Labor?

In the Component Method, a labor unit includes labor hours for receiving, unloading, stockpiling, distributing, handling and erecting, fitting and joining, and normal pressure testing. In the new Work Activity Method, the labor units are for specific tasks alone, such as the labor to make a joint, to cut and bevel pipe, install a fitting or perform a hydro test.

### Do the Labor Units Include X-ray Quality Welds?

Labor to perform X-ray quality welding is not included in the labor units and must be taken into consideration separately when estimating.

### Do the Labor Units Include Purge?

The labor units do not include purge, which must be taken into consideration separately.

### Can the Labor Units be Applied to Pre-fabrication?

Labor units are developed based on field assembly. Any savings resulting from shop fabrication would have to be reflected by adding a productivity multiplier to the labor units.

### Do I Have to Add Labor Units for Cutting, Beveling, and Threading or Welding a Standard Length Pipe?

In the Component Method, the labor unit for installing pipe includes one joint, which includes the cutting, beveling, and threading or welding. Therefore, no additional labor per standard length of pipe is required. In the Work Activity Method, each activity, such as cut and bevel, is a separate labor unit.

### Do the Labor Units Include the Installation of the Coupling?

The Component Method labor units include the installation of the coupling. In the Work Activity Method, installation of the coupling is part of the joint labor unit.

### Do the Labor Units Include the Installation of the Hanger?

The pipe installation labor units do not include the installation of hangers. The labor unit to install the hangers must be taken into consideration separately.