'Per' your request

A reader recently wrote asking about the usage of “per.”

It’s common to see sentences such as: “I’ve attached a copy of the contract, per your request.”

Some reference books point out that “per” is correctly used to mean “by the,” as in “per hour.” And other guides, such as The New Fowler’s Modern English Usage, recommend using more familiar English words.

For example: “I’ve attached a copy of the contract, as you requested” or “I’ve attached a copy of the contract, according to your request.”

Bottom line: If it’s not a word or phrase you would use in normal speech, avoid it in your business writing.