

Standards and surveyors - a continuing odyssey

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Key questions

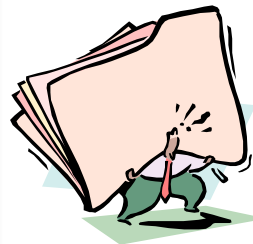
- What are standards?
- Why are they important?
- What value can professionals add?
- What is FIG doing about it?



The world of standards

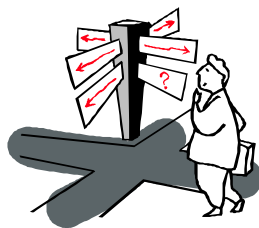
What are standards?

- 'Accepted or approved example'
- 'Level of excellence or quality'
- 'Specifications... to be used consistently as... guidelines... to ensure fitness for purpose...'



Their growing importance

- Globalisation
- Competition laws
- Consumer requirements
- Technological developments
- Intertwining of industries



Some figures

- Breadth of coverage
 - 430,608 pages in 13,544 ISO standards
 - ISO 9000 is one of many!
- Economic benefits
 - \$15 billion per annum in Germany
 - More than patents and licences



Recent studies

- Delphi
 - Create liquidity
 - Leverage investments
 - Foundation for long-term advances
- UK DTI
 - Encourage innovation
 - Increases competition
 - Imbalanced towards producers?



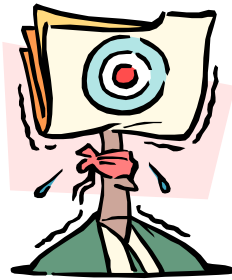
Standardisation bodies

- ISO
- National bodies
- IVSC
- Governments
- Companies
- Other bodies
- WTO



Shortcomings

- Politics
- Time
- Ignorance



The relevance to surveyors

- TC172
 - survey instruments including GPS
- TC211 (TC287)
 - > 30 standards
 - all aspects of GI
 - coming our way now
- IVS'2000-03
 - the white book
 - here now



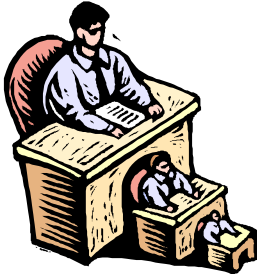
FIG's response

FIG Policy

- Assisting in the process of creating workable and timely standards
- Moving de facto standards to official standards



Roles for professionals



- Proposing material for transformation
- Assisting in the creation of workable and current standards
- Creating guidance material

FIG work to date

- Setting up a Task Force
- Ascertaining the need
- Gaining a profile
- Offering material
- Building links
- Producing a Guide



Ongoing FIG work - its Network



- Bringing Commission work together
- Strengthening links with sister societies
- Building links with ISO and IVSC
- Looking at national level activity
- TC172 - GPS
- TC211 - Outreach, qualifications, etc
- Promoting best practice
- Communications

Why should FIG be involved?

- Ensuring standards developers know members' needs
- Improved standards
- Improved survey practice
- Improved bottom line



Key points



- Standards *are* important
- Professionals can plug shortcomings
- FIG has become a respected player
- But.... there is more work to be done