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 Policy

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

FIG’s response
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