

FSDf SPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT POLICIES - STANDARDS

Objective: To achieve maximum access to spatial information through the application of open standards.

This document is presented by ANZLIC – the Spatial Information Council, representing the Australian and New Zealand Governments, and the governments of the States and Territories of Australia.

*The Australian and New Zealand Foundation Spatial Data Framework:
FSDf Spatial Information Management Policies - Standards.*

About this document

This document has been published by the Department of Communications on behalf of ANZLIC—the Spatial Information Council. ANZLIC is an intergovernmental council that comprises representatives from the Australian, state and territory governments and the New Zealand Government. The ANZLIC Secretariat is currently provided by the department.

Digital versions of this publication are also available on the ANZLIC website at www.anzlic.org.au/FSDf.

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FSDF - Standards

PART A

Introduction

1. The Australian and New Zealand Foundation Spatial Data Framework¹ (FSDF) provides a consistent approach to the definition and documentation of national-level spatial information.
2. Standards are central to the FSDF to ensure that spatial data and other spatial resources are discoverable, accessible and useable. The application of (non-proprietary) open standards is one of the core elements of the Foundation Spatial Data Framework (FSDF).

Purpose

3. The purpose of this document is to describe the standards framework for the FSDF.

What are Standards?

4. A standard is a document that provides requirements, specifications, guidelines or characteristics that can be used consistently to ensure that materials, products, processes and services are fit for their purpose². A geographic (spatial) standard is a formalised method of achieving an interface between one entity, e.g. an organisation, and another. The process of applying a standard is repeatable, open and quite often transparent to the user, creating an information environment where the maximum amount of information is available to the maximum number of users.
5. An organisation's information and services are valuable assets and a substantial amount of time, money and effort is invested in these assets. However, if potential users are unable to locate and consume the information and services they seek, then the full value of those resources will not be realised.
6. The 19000 series of the International Organisation for Standards (ISO) referred as ISO/TC211 – Geographic Information/Geomatics standards form the core set of tools by which the FSDF will achieve very high levels of interoperability between all levels government and more broadly to industry and the public domain.
7. The ISO has developed a range of standards applicable to the spatial domain and for the FSDF two other organisations exist that specifically support the implementation of those standards;
 - a. Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), <http://www.opengeospatial.org/>, and
 - b. Object Management Group (OMG), <http://www.omg.org/>.
8. The standards and body of knowledge developed through ISO/TC211, OGC and OMG are key to the development, implementation and maintenance of the FSDF.

¹ One Australian and New Zealand Foundation Spatial Data Framework, Nov 2012.

² International Organisation for Standards, <http://www.iso.org/iso/home/standards.htm>

Benefits of Standards

9. Standards are central to spatial information management because they provide an internationally recognised process for documenting and exchanging information that gives the user a measure of consistency and certainty. Standards provide the following benefits:
- Ability to rapidly insert new technology;
 - Technology risk reduction;
 - Improved choice and competition in the marketplace, and
 - Reduced technology costs;

The Guidelines

PART B

Process for applying Standards

10. In the first instance, the application of standards to all FSDf activities is to follow those of ISO/TC211. Australia and New Zealand are participating members of ISO/TC211 and the development of the spatial standards is in collaboration with national standardisation bodies. Standards Australia's committee (IT-004) is the national committee and has representatives from Australian and New Zealand Government agencies, State and Territory jurisdictions, academia and industry. Standards Australia has covered sheeted all ISO/TC211 Standards as Australian/New Zealand Standards to make them readily accessible.
11. OGC standards are created with the support of technology users and providers, with a number of Australian and New Zealand agencies participating in the development of these standards.
12. A very basic depiction of the process for applying standards is shown at Annex A. Departures from this process must be endorsed by ANZLIC.

Scope of Applicable Standards

13. The application of standards to the FSDf can be categorised in three major areas (only one of them being "spatial");
- a. Geographic Standards are applied according to a hierarchy of precedence from ISO, AS/NZS and OGC.
 - b. Information modelling Standards from ISO and OMG.
 - c. Information Management Standards to be referred to the appropriate government authority for ICT Standards, including for example:
 - i. Data quality, and
 - ii. Information interchange

14. A list of the applicable standards to the FSDf is located at ISO's Standards Catalogue website -

http://www.iso.org/iso/iso_catalogue/catalogue_tc/catalogue_tc_browse.htm?commid=54904&published=on&includesc=true and AS/NZS Geographic Information Standards are located at <http://www.saiglobal.com/>.

15. OGC List of standards is located at <http://www.opengeospatial.org/standards/is>.

Annex:

A. Process for applying standards

Annex A - Process for the application of standards

