



LANDS surveying alert

Survey Audit Modernisation

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Issue 57

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- Survey Audit Modernisation

A new cadastral survey auditing process will be introduced from 3 July 2023. This new process will apply to all surveys and related plans lodged with Titles Queensland (TQ) or submitted with the Department of Resources (Resources). The main features of the new process were outlined in Surveying Alert 56 published on 25 May 2023. A flow chart outlining the process is available [here](#). It is expected that surveyors will not need to make many changes to their current processes, particularly when submitting information to Resources or lodging plans with TQ.

Amendments have been made to the specification for submitting survey plans to the department and a draft is available for [download](#). Also available are the [Resources checklist](#) and the [TQ checklist](#) for surveyors to use for guidance.

Additional features of the new process are as follows and should be read in conjunction with those outlined in Surveying Alert 56:

- TQ will examine plans prior to registration but only for a prescribed number of items that satisfy TQ business requirements for the valid registration of a survey plan. Resources will independently undertake audits on a selection of surveys, focusing on survey quality and compliance with cadastral survey requirements (CSR). For plans to be lodged with TQ, the majority of audits performed by Resources will occur after registration. Identification surveys will also be eligible for an audit.
- All supporting documentation including survey records, AUSPOS (GNSS processing) reports, and any other relevant survey related information must be submitted to Resources with the plan, and not lodged with TQ. Email addresses for submitting information with Resources are detailed on page five of the draft specification mentioned above ([link](#)).
- Advice and CSR exemption references from Resources are to be shown in panel 3 of sheet 2 on survey plans and can be placed anywhere on identification survey plans. There will be no need to submit exemption letters issued by Resources when submitting plans to Resources.
- Where an approval has been granted by TQ in relation to the Registrar's Directions for the Preparation of Plans (RTDPP), the letter of approval must be included with the Form 21z when the plan is lodged. Such approval letters should also be included when the plan is submitted to Resources
- All surveys, including the field work and plan, must fully comply with current legislation, standards, and policies. There should be no difference between a field survey undertaken for an identification survey and a survey for a plan to be registered. All surveys and their resulting survey plans either submitted or lodged, will be eligible for audit by Resources. This includes survey plans (SP), deposited plans (DP), identification surveys (IS) and redundant catalogue plans (RC).
- Accreditation of surveyors will be discontinued, and all plans submitted to Resources or lodged with TQ will be processed and audited or examined in the same way. Endorsement of survey plans at item five on sheet two is no longer required but is allowable.
- The Form 10 will be discontinued and is not required when depositing or lodging plans. New checklists have been prepared by Resources and TQ and are available for reference as mentioned above. Both show the requirements for each organisation, which is necessary given they are now separate. There may still be a small amount of overlap between the checklists.

- Resources will undertake a validation check when initially processing a plan to determine suitability for entry into the computer inventory of survey plans (CISP). If not found to be suitable, the surveyor will be notified by email.
- After entry into CISP, surveys represented by those plans will be eligible for audit. Only a sample of all plans submitted or lodged will be audited by Resources, while all plans lodged in TQ will be examined by TQ for a prescribed number of items specific to their requirements.
- The process for selection of surveys for audit allows the department to focus on aspects important to the quality of surveys and includes a random component. Periodically, and in consultation with the Surveyors Board of Queensland, the department will choose which aspects to focus on. This will be communicated to the industry in advance through surveying alerts. In addition, Resources reserves the right to select any survey for audit if warranted, or if requested by a relevant authority such as the board. It is expected that surveys selected for audit in this way will be very much the minority.
- Audits by Resources will generally be undertaken within 6 months of submitting or lodging the survey plan. An audit may include both desktop and field components. All field audits will be done by a cadastral surveyor or under the supervision of a cadastral surveyor.
- On completion of an audit, the surveyor who signs the plan will be notified that the survey is either:
 - Compliant,
 - Non-compliant (no change required). Surveyors will be advised on any non-compliant matters for future reference. Further action to prevent similar errors is recommended, or
 - Non-compliant (change required). Further action is required. Surveyors will be advised of non-compliant matters and a response must be provided. The response may advise what action has been taken to correct the error or could include reasons why the surveyor believes the matter complies. If the response is unsatisfactory or not provided within the specified timeframe, corrective action under Sections 28 to 31 of the *Survey and Mapping Infrastructure Act 2003* may be taken. Corrections to registered plans will be done by post registration correction and a fee may apply.
- Requests for advice should be sent to the relevant organisation. Requests relating to the *Survey and Mapping Infrastructure Act 2003* or the CSR, are to be forwarded to Resources at SurveyAdvice@resources.qld.gov.au. Requests relating to the *Land Title Act 1994* or the RTDPP are to be forwarded to TitlesInfo@titlesqld.com.au.
- The CSR and the RTDPP are being updated to indicate the separate requirements of Resources and TQ. Updated versions of both documents will commence and be available from the date of implementation of the new processes.

The features and characteristics of the new survey auditing process are outlined above and in Surveying Alert Issue 56. The new process will be implemented from 3 July 2023. Resources is currently focusing on reducing the queue of DPs awaiting examination to reduce the number remaining when the new processes commence. While it would be desirable to have none in the queue, this will not be possible. Any plans remaining will move from the current queue to the new process and will be eligible for audit.

If you have any queries, please email surveying@resources.qld.gov.au.