



Corner information, Identification surveys, EDME and Easements

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Corner information - improper use of “not searched”

It is noted that improper presentation of corner information on survey plans (including identification survey plans) is becoming more common, particularly regarding the misuse of “not searched”.

There is no reason why this term should ever be used at a boundary corner. When an original mark at a corner has become inaccessible since the original survey and is not able to be measured, the corner mark is described as not found. For example, “OP not fd (in deep fill)” or “O D/H not fd (under conc.)” in accordance with standard 9.15.1 of the Cadastral Survey Requirements v8.01 (CSR).

For reference marks, and in a very limited number of cases where numerous reference marks exist, some may be described as “not searched”. This description must only be used when a surveyor has considered and measured sufficient monuments to reinstate a corner and proven that the adopted marks are reliable, with greater weight being given to older monuments, in accordance with CSR 3.33. To prove that adopted marks are reliable, all reference marks are to be measured at each corner. Three reference marks that agree would be sufficient where more exist. The older reference marks must be included and prioritised. In most cases, all survey marks, occupation, and improvements are to be measured. Collecting all the evidence for every corner represents best practice. To avoid a proliferation of reference marks in future, placing additional reference marks at corners where there are already numerous stable, suitable reference marks is discouraged.

Version 8.01 of the CSR was also updated to provide further guidance to ensure the appropriate use of “new ref” and “noted and checked” (CSR 9.15.3.1).

Identification surveys

Auditing of identification surveys commenced on 3 July 2023, and this has highlighted misunderstandings regarding the purpose of identification surveys and the application of the CSR. Identification surveys are cadastral surveys under the *Survey and Mapping Infrastructure Act 2003*. They must comply with the same standards as other plans of survey, and are certified using the same certificate. Unless stated otherwise, all the standards and guidelines in the CSR apply to identification surveys.

As part of our current review of the CSR, we are working towards providing greater clarity for identification surveys. As a general principle, if an identification survey is for the whole of a parcel, the field work required and the survey content to be shown on the plan is no different to that required for a plan of re-survey. Applying this principle helps to clarify questions about presentation. For example, a re-survey would show only one boundary for each watercourse and would provide a physical feature boundary report, an identification survey must also show only one boundary for each watercourse, provide a physical feature boundary report, and be carried out in accordance with Part 7 of the *Survey and Mapping Infrastructure Act*

2003. Another example is disclaimers – a plan of re-survey would not include a disclaimer, and neither should an identification survey (CSR 3.4.1).

Legal traceability of length for EDM

The Department has completed the recertification process of the northern EDM baselines. New Regulation 13 certificates and calibration software is available on the Departmental website.

Annual baseline recertifications will continue to be held around August – September each year. The Department recommends that, where possible, surveyors should avoid testing their EDM during these months if their local baseline is due for recertification.

The southern and northern baselines, tabulated below, are recertified every even and odd calendar year respectively.

Southern Baselines	Northern Baselines
Caboolture	Goonyella
Childers	Mackay
Gold Coast	Mica Creek
Leyburn	Townsville
Tungamull	Walkamin

Gold Coast baseline.

The keys to access the Gold Coast baseline are now located at the Gold Coast City Council office in Nerang. Access is no longer allowed through the wastewater treatment plant. Please ensure that the keys are returned to the council office when finished.

For more information, please visit the Resources webpage for legal traceability of length or contact your local Resources office.

[Calibration of survey equipment | Business Queensland](#)

Point of truth for easements

The point of truth for the spatial extent of an easement is the survey plan and related registered instruments. However, the point of truth to determine the existence of an easement is the indefeasible title. The digital cadastral database (DCDB), as represented in Queensland Globe for example, is a graphical representation of the cadastre and is not the point of truth for data such as the existence or otherwise of easements. Should a mismatch be discovered where easements are incorrectly shown in the DCDB, please email SurveyAdvice@resources.qld.gov.au to request an update of the DCDB.