

FIG STANDARDS NETWORK REPORT TO 2003 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. Introduction

The FIG Standards Network was set up as a result of a decision at the 2002 General Assembly. It grew out of the FIG Task Force on Standards and was designed to provide an FIG focus on this important area, which is a key part of the previous and current Council workplans.

This brief report summarises Network progress since the 2002 General Assembly, and its immediate plans.

2. FIG policy

FIG's policy on standardisation was ratified at the 2001 General Assembly. The key parts of that policy read as follows:

'Overall, FIG's aim in the field of standards is to assist in the process of developing workable and timely official and legal standards covering the activities of surveyors. FIG is also committed in its objectives to developing the skills of surveyors and encouraging the proper use of technology, activities which are becoming increasingly shaped by standards.

FIG will generally seek to ensure that *de facto* standards become official standards as technology matures, or at the very least that all relevant official, legal and *de facto* standards are produced in full knowledge of all other related material.

FIG sees the following roles for professionals in the standardisation process:

- Assisting in the production of workable and timely standards by proposing material which can be transformed into international standards (rather than relying on work developed by others) and by participating in the process of developing standards; and
- Disseminating information and creating explanatory material and guidance notes to ensure that all members of FIG are aware of the most recent standardisation activities, standards and regulations, and their implications for surveyors.

3. Terms of reference and membership

The terms of reference of the Network are set out in the FIG Guide on Standardisation and are as follows:

- Building and maintaining relations with the secretariats of standardisation bodies;
- Proposing priorities on FIG's standardisation activities, including advising the Council on priorities for spending;
- Setting up necessary Liaison relationships with standardisation bodies;
- Ensuring that lead contacts to Technical Committees etc are in place;
- Maintaining an information flow on standardisation to FIG members, including through the FIG website and FIG Bulletin, and more directly to relevant Commission Officers;
- Maintaining the Guide on Standardisation, and related material on the FIG website;

- Working with other NGOs, within the framework of the MOUs signed by the Council; and
- Advising FIG's officers and members on standardisation activities as necessary.

The Network sees itself as at the hub of FIG standardisation activity, making the necessary linkages and providing the necessary advice to commissions and others. Strong links between Network members and 'their' commissions are a vital part of this.

Network membership as at January 2003 was as follows:

C1	Iain Greenway (Chair)
C2	Pedro Caverio (pro tem)
C3	Martin Scheu
C4	Adam Greenland/ Mike Johnston (TBD)
C5	Rudolf Staiger
C6	Aloiz Kopacik
C7	Winfried Hawerk
C8	Paul Lohmann (pro tem)
C9	Brian Waldy
C10	Phil Shearer (pro tem)
ISO TC211	Larry Hothem

4. Progress in the last 12 months

The Network held a productive meeting at the Washington Congress. Since then, members have assisted in the completion of a grid summarising Commission work relevant to standardisation. This grid has also included ISPRS activity in this area, but has been unsuccessful in including information from other sister societies.

Key areas of activity were agreed in Washington to be:

- Links with IVSC
- The work of ISO TC 172 SC6 on survey instruments
- The work of ISO TC211 on geographic information standards
- Developing an understanding of standards in areas such as hydrography
- Building links with sister societies and with member associations

It was agreed that clearer and more detailed priorities, along with an associated action plan, would be created during the 2003 working week.

During the last year, FIG has remained actively engaged in the work of ISO TC211, with Iain Greenway attending the TC meeting in May 2002. Iain Greenway and Gerhard Joos are FIG members of the TC211 Outreach Group, which is working to build TC211's profile and the understanding of its standards, something for which FIG has long argued. FIG has also remained involved in the TC211 work on the qualification and certification of personnel, work which now is reaching conclusion. The likely next step is a sectoral workshop to determine the appropriate next steps, a workshop in which FIG expects to play an active part, both through the Standards

Network and also through individuals involved in FIG's work on mutual recognition of qualifications. FIG's contribution to the work of TC211 is much appreciated by ISO.

Links with IVSC have been progressed in a less formal way, with IVSC at a meeting in Washington promising to explore a route through which FIG could be involved in its work. FIG Commission 5 has also remained engaged in the ISO work on survey instrumentation, something in which Jean-Marie Becker has for many years been a prime mover.

5. Summary

The last 12 months have been a fairly quiet period in developing FIG's agenda on standardisation into new areas, but have seen good progress in a number of existing areas. During the 2003 working week, the key priority for the Network will be to develop a clearer shared understanding of FIG's priorities and required actions in the area of standardisation, and to build this as a common agenda with the Commissions.

The commitment of the Council and of the Commissions to this ongoing work is appreciated and acknowledged.

Iain Greenway

Chair, FIG Standards Network

January 2003