



# Surveyor-General's Direction

No. 7

## *Supplementary document #1*

*Exemptions by the Surveyor-General*

Version 1.0, September 2025



## Surveyor-General's Direction No.7 – supplementary document #1

This is intended as a supplement to *Surveyor-General's Direction No.7* (v5.0), pending update of that Direction, and supersedes Item 14.1 Appendix A "Exemption by Surveyor-General".

Document version: 1.0, September 2025

### Exemptions by the Surveyor-General

*The Surveying and Spatial Information Act 2002* (the Act) was amended on 30 October 2023 to move the provision for exemptions by the Surveyor-General from Clause 91 of the *Surveying and Spatial Information Regulation 2017* to Section 33B of the Act. The amendment has not altered the practical process of applying for an exemption.

Section 33B(1)(a) of the Act allows the Surveyor-General to exempt a registered surveyor from a requirement of the *Surveying and Spatial Information Regulation 2024* (the Regulation) if the requirement relates to:

- the practices to be followed in the conduct of surveys, or
- the form in which survey plans are to be prepared, or
- the form and construction of permanent survey marks and other survey marks used in connection with the carrying out of surveys

As per Section 33B(1)(b) of the Act, an exemption may be granted if, in the Surveyor-General's opinion, it is not practicable or necessary to comply with a requirement of the Regulation. Under Section 33B(2)(b) of the Act, upon application by a registered surveyor, an exemption that is granted by the Surveyor-General will be provided by written notice given to the surveyor. Further, an exemption may only partly exempt the registered surveyor from compliance with a requirement of the Regulation (i.e. it may only apply to a part of a subject survey).

The Surveyor-General may, under Section 33B(3) of the Act, grant an exemption subject to conditions. If the registered surveyor does not comply with the conditions of the exemption, then, as per Section 33B(4) of the Act, the exemption granted does not apply.

A survey plan that relies on an exemption must, as stipulated in Section 33B(5)(a) of the Act, record on the plan that an exemption has been relied upon, along with sufficient information to identify the particular exemption.

The notation identifying the exemption (e.g. "EXN25/001") must be placed adjacent to the surveyor's reference on the survey plan. If the required notation is not recorded on the relevant survey plan, the conditions stipulated in Section 33B(5)(a) of the Act are not met, and the exemption granted does not apply as per Section 33B(4) of the Act.

Note that where a plan-specific exemption applies, and one or more class exemptions also apply (see "Class exemptions" below), notations for all exemptions must be placed adjacent to the surveyor's reference on the survey plan.

When a survey plan to which an exemption applies is lodged with the Registrar-General or a public authority, Section 33(5)(b) of the Act requires a registered surveyor to give the Registrar-General or public authority a copy of the exemption letter at lodgment. It is considered critical for the examination process that the surveyor lodges a copy of the exemption letter so that a plan examiner can:

- Be aware of which part or parts of the survey plan the exemption applies to, and
- Determine whether the conditions, if any, which apply to the exemption have been met.

It is important to note that the Surveyor-General will only issue plan-specific exemptions or class exemptions. A plan-specific exemption will apply to one survey plan only. A single plan-specific exemption will not be granted for multiple stages of a multi-plan project or on a project basis.

## Applying for an Exemption

A surveyor may apply to the Surveyor-General seeking an exemption from a requirement of the Regulation. To apply for an exemption, an application must be lodged through DCS-Spatial Services' Customer Hub (see <https://ss-customerhub.atlassian.net/servicedesk/customer/portal/6/group/7/create/29>).

## Class exemptions

Section 33B(2)(a) of the Act allows the Surveyor-General to grant exemptions to all, or a class of, registered surveyors.

To streamline procedures for class exemptions, surveyors need not apply to the Surveyor-General for a class exemption number on an individual plan basis. The notation "Class Exemption", with the number of the class exemption added, is placed after the surveyor's reference to indicate the surveyor's intent for the class exemption to apply. For example, to apply Class Exemption 6 to a survey plan, the notation "Class Exemption 6" must be placed after the surveyor's reference on the plan.

## Class Exemption 6 – Connection to PSMs in abutting roads

This class exemption applies to all registered surveyors.

A survey plan applying Class Exemption 6 must be an urban survey abutting one or more roads.

Section 42(1)(a) of the Regulation requires that an urban survey abutting one or more roads be connected to permanent survey marks (PSMs), where those PSMs must be exclusively situated along the abutting road(s).

A survey plan applying this class exemption is not required to connect to PSMs exclusively situated along the abutting road(s), however, it must still demonstrate connection to the total number of PSMs required under Section 42(1)(a).

The required PSMs may be situated and connected to the land surveyed as deemed appropriate by the surveyor, provided they lie within 250 metres of the land surveyed and all other provisions of the Regulation are met.

## Exemption History

An historical account of exemptions and policy exemptions can be found in previous versions of *Surveyor-General's Direction No.7* on the DCS-Spatial Services website.

Document Approval:



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