To support the adoption of the Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020 (GDA2020), legislation governing surveying and spatial information in NSW must be updated. The Office of the Surveyor-General is advising NSW Government on the modernisation and rationalisation of the relevant legislation under the control of several different NSW Ministries.

Amendments to the Surveying and Spatial Information (S&SI) Act and Regulation

The S&SI Act (2002) and Regulation (2017) define the prescribed datum in NSW for the State control survey and surveys carried out for or on behalf of the Surveyor-General or a public authority. They also provide a mechanism to advise Government on activities relating to the capture and dissemination of other spatial information.

Statute Law (Misc) Bill (No 2) 2019 (pg 11-12), passed November 2019, will amend the S&SI Act and Regulation by:

- Relocating the definition of the Australian Height Datum and the Geocentric Datum of Australia from the Act to the Regulation
- Note: The amendments to the S&SI Act and Regulation will commence on 1 January 2020
- Note: The Map Grid of Australia (MGA) is the UTM projection of GDA, e.g. MGA2020 projected from GDA2020.

Land survey plans: GDA2020 from 1 January 2020 plus six-month general exemption

Amendments to the S&SI Act and Regulation will make GDA2020 the prescribed datum for land surveys and plans including Deposited Plans and Strata Plans. Land survey plans with a date of survey after 1 January 2020 will require:

- Coordinate Schedule to provide MGA2020 coordinates and Positional Uncertainty (replaces ‘Order’)
- Height Schedule to provide Positional Uncertainty (replaces ‘Order’)

Surveyor-General's Direction No. 7 and associated approved schedules and templates will be updated to support the submission of land survey plans in MGA2020. A general exemption policy permitting the use of MGA94 coordinates will be available for land survey plans with a ‘date of survey’ between 1 January 2020 and 30 June 2020 inclusive.

NSW LandXML has been similarly updated; contact your software vendor and/or obtain the updated Recipe and Schema from https://www.nswlrs.com.au/Digital-Plans/LandXML.

Early submission of plans in MGA2020 will only be considered where benefit to the project can be demonstrated. The timeline for submission of Land Survey Plans is summarised in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plans with ‘Date of Survey’</th>
<th>Survey plans referencing MGA94</th>
<th>Survey plans referencing MGA2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>before 01 January 2020</td>
<td>As per S&amp;SI Act (2002) and Regulation (2017)</td>
<td>By plan-specific exemption only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01 January 2020 to 30 June 2020</td>
<td>By general exemption policy</td>
<td>As per updated S&amp;SI Act and Regulation to support GDA2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>after 30 June 2020</td>
<td>By plan-specific exemption only</td>
<td>As per updated S&amp;SI Act and Regulation to support GDA2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mine survey plans and related legislation

Mine surveys are governed by distinct legislation and will be updated following a different schedule. The following Acts, Regulations and Directions are currently under review:

- Mining Act (1992) and/or Regulation (2016)

It is the intention of the Resources Regulator (a unit of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment) to enact appropriate changes to this legislation in the first half of 2020, including the introduction of a two-year transition period from GDA94 to GDA2020. More information will be published when specific amendments and their timeline are determined.

Note: Mining Tenure Surveys are referred to in the above legislation but are a form of land survey and are therefore governed by the S&SI Act. Refer to the previous section and Surveyor-General’s Direction No. 8 for more information.

Other NSW legislation

In NSW legislation governing spatial information, there currently exists a variety of prescribed spatial reference systems including but not limited to GDA94, AGD66, WGS84 and ‘GPS coordinates’.

The Office of the Surveyor-General continues to work with custodians of other legislation in NSW to rationalise these spatial reference systems. The preferred solution is to refer to datum as defined in the amended S&SI Regulation.

Where can I obtain MGA2020/GDA2020 coordinates for Survey Marks?

The Survey Control Information Management System (SCIMS) has provided MGA94/GDA94 and MGA2020/GDA2020 coordinates since July 2019. Refer to the SCIMS Online Support Guide for more information.

Where can I find out more about GDA2020?


For more information, please email the GDA2020 Team at DCS Spatial Services: GDA2020@customerservice.nsw.gov.au