



## **ASPRS Policy on Recognition of Non-ASPRS Authored Geographic Information Standards and Specifications**

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The American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) Board of Directors has the responsibility for ASPRS Standards and has chartered the ASPRS Standards Committee to oversee the ASPRS Standards Program. One aspect of the Standards Program is the relationship between ASPRS and standards or specifications developed by non-ASPRS standards development or setting organizations.

This policy defines the formal relationship between ASPRS and non-ASPRS authored standards.

### **PURPOSE:**

This policy establishes a mechanism for ASPRS recognition of non-ASPRS authored standards or specifications that are relevant to the mission and business of ASPRS and its members.

### **BACKGROUND:**

An objective of ASPRS, as stated in the ASPRS Strategic Plan, is for ASPRS to “Proactively develop standards and guidelines for emerging technologies.” To meet this objective, ASPRS needs to maintain a leadership role in the development of guidelines, standards, specifications, and calibration processes for those sensors and activities of primary importance to the membership; expand ASPRS presence on national and international standards development committees; use established procedures for reviewing, modifying and approving standards; publish or link to pertinent technical standards on the Internet; and promote the use of published standards. Standards developed by ASPRS are based on a due process and consensus-based process, free of any intellectual property rights.

Geographic information standards and related standards and specifications have been, and will continue to be, authored by non-ASPRS organizations. Numerous standards and specifications authored by many domestic and international standards development bodies are applicable to the mission and business of ASPRS. Because efficient geographic information collection and exchange require widespread use of the same standards and specifications, the ASPRS Standards Committee identified the need for a mechanism to identify, evaluate, and recognize non-ASPRS authored standards and specifications. It was also

determined that many useful geographic information standards and specifications would be identified that might not have widespread applicability, but would nevertheless significantly improve the efficiency of data capture and exchange in specific situations. ASPRS as a professional, volunteer membership organization, can not mandate use of certain standards but does have the responsibility to make its members aware of non-ASPRS standards and encourage their use. It was therefore deemed useful for ASPRS to have a policy and mechanism for recognizing non-ASPRS standards and specifications.

**CATEGORIES:** For the purposes of this policy, geospatial information related standards and specifications are divided into the following defined categories:

1. ASPRS authored standards – standards developed wholly by ASPRS for the image based geospatial community and ASPRS members.
2. Non-ASPRS authored standards - standards developed through the processes and procedures of recognized Standards Development Organizations (SDO's) to include but not limited to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and ISO Technical Committee 211, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the ANSI accredited INCITS L1 committee and or Standards Setting Organizations (SSO's) such as but not limited to the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), the Object Management Group (OMG), and the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC).

#### **LEVELS OF RECOGNITION AND COMPLIANCE:**

This policy establishes two levels of ASPRS recognition for non-ASPRS authored standards and specifications:

*Adoption* – The non-ASPRS authored standard or specification has the same status as that of an ASPRS authored standard. Members are highly encouraged to use and embrace the standard as a standard course of business. An example of an adopted standard might be JPEG2000, the Geographic Markup Language as well as other relevant markup languages.

*Endorsement* – The non-ASPRS authored standard or specification is recognized as useful but is not deemed to be of such broad applicability that ASPRS does not wish to adopt it. ASPRS does have the responsibility to publicize it and make its members aware of the standard. An example of an endorsed standard might be grid reference systems.

The ASPRS Board of Directors has the responsibility and authority for deciding the level of recognition for a non-ASPRS Authored Standard. Only non-ASPRS authored standards or specifications proposed for consideration under this policy must already be fully developed through a standards open, consensus based process.

There are no ASPRS Board compliance requirements for non-authored ASPRS Standards adopted or endorsed by the Board of Directors. There may be policies and directives such as compliance or intellectual property rights issued by the SDO and/or SSO that establish requirements outside of ASPRS.

#### **PROCESS TO ADOPTION OR ENDORSEMENT:**

Any ASPRS organizational entity or member may propose any non-ASPRS authored standard or specification for ASPRS adoption or endorsement. Proposals must be submitted in writing to the ASPRS Standards Committee. The proposal should name the non-ASPRS authored standard under consideration, a recommended level of recognition, and justification for consideration.

Following proposal receipt, the ASPRS Standards Committee will acknowledge proposal receipt and notify the Board of Directors, the Divisions, and the Standing Committees of receipt of the proposal and provide copies of the proposal. The ASPRS Board of Directors may accept or reject the proposal. If accepted, the Board shall direct the Standards Committee to coordinate a review of and issue a call for subject matter member experts to review the proposal and referenced standard and provide a recommendation. The subject matter member experts will review the proposal and referenced standard and assess the requirement for the standard and the level of consideration, reporting their findings to the Standards Committee.

The Standards Committee will provide a report, including the subject matter experts report, to the ASPRS Board of Directors for final decision. The Standards Committee will ensure that the Board of Directors decision is communicated to the Divisions, Committees, proposal submitter, and ASPRS Staff and update publication documentation (e.g. ASPRS Standards web page) to reflect the decision.