Standards – why are they relevant in a surveyor’s world?

Iain Greenway
Chair, FIG Standards Network
Chair, ISO/TC211 Focus Group on Data Providers

The growing importance of standards

- Globalisation
- Competition laws
- Consumer requirements
- Technological developments
- Intertwining of industries
Some figures

- **Breadth of coverage**
  - 430,608 pages in 13,544 ISO standards
  - ISO 9000 is one of many!

- **Economic benefits**
  - $15 billion per annum in Germany
  - More than patents and licences

Recent studies

- **Delphi**
  - Create liquidity
  - Leverage investments
  - Foundation for long-term advances

- **UK DTI**
  - Encourage innovation
  - Increases competition
  - Imbalanced towards producers?
Standardisation bodies

- ISO
- National bodies
- IVSC
- Governments
- Companies
- Other bodies
- WTO

Shortcomings

- Politics
- Time
- Ignorance
The relevance to surveyors

- **TC172**
  - survey instruments including GPS
- **TC211 (TC287)**
  - > 30 standards
  - all aspects of GI
  - coming our way now
- **IVS'2000-03**
  - the white book
  - here now

---

Why should professional bodies be involved?

- Ensuring standards developers know members’ needs
- Improved standards
- Improved survey practice
- Improved bottom line