

Best Practice Guidelines - Enhancing the Value of the Surveyor

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SUMMARY

The task of the modern-day surveyor is not primarily to produce coordinates, but rather to provide enough information for coordinates to be useful within a specific context or application. Also, the surveyor needs to be equipped to handle situations where coordinates are likely to be used and re-used for different purposes, e.g. cadastral surveying within an urban planning context.

With this in mind, we discuss the role of best practice guidelines for surveying professionals and try to address the following questions:

- How can best practice guidelines bridge the knowledge gap between surveyors and potential clients?
- What can we as surveyors learn from other professions where quality assessment is a key activity?

We specifically look at a Swedish set of guidelines called "HMK" and how they are used by surveyors and clients to support quality assessment in the surveying process. Examples from the HMK guidelines include recommendations for verification of measurement uncertainty in detail surveys based on GNSS and terrestrial techniques.

The HMK guidelines are published by Lantmäteriet (the Swedish mapping, cadastral and land registration authority) with the overall aim to promote cooperation and higher quality within the fields of geoinformation and land surveying. The guidelines are freely available in digital form and can be copied and distributed for non-commercial purposes. Current development includes preparation of e-learning as a supplement to the guidelines.