Standards - their relevance to surveyors and FIG’s response

Iain Greenway
Chair, FIG Standards Network
Key questions

- What are standards?
- Why are they important?
- What value can professionals add?
- What is FIG doing about it?
The world of standards
What are standards?

- ‘Accepted or approved example’
- ‘Level of excellence or quality’
- ‘Specifications... to be used consistently as... guidelines... to ensure fitness for purpose...’
Their growing importance

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

- Breadth of coverage
  - 430,608 pages in 13,544 ISO standards

- Economic benefits
  - $15 billion per annum in Germany
Standardisation bodies

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

- Politics
- Time
- Ignorance
The relevance to surveyors

- TC172
  - survey instruments
- TC211 (TC287)
  - > 30 standards
  - all aspects of GI
  - coming our way now
- IVS’2000/01/02
  - the white book
  - here now
FIG’s response
FIG Policy

- Assisting in the process of creating workable and timely standards
- Moving de facto standards to official standards
Roles for professionals

- Proposing material for transformation
- Assisting in the creation of workable and current standards
- Creating guidance material
FIG work to date

- Setting up a Task Force
- Ascertaining the need
- Gaining a profile
- Offering material
- Building links
- Producing a Guide
The Guide

- Introduction
- Policy
- Strategies
  - including current players, and how ISO works
- Roles
- Further information
Ongoing FIG work - its Network

- Bringing Commission work together
- Strengthening links with sister societies
- Building links with ISO and IVSC
- TC211 - Outreach, qualifications, etc
- Promoting best practice
- Communications
Why should FIG be involved?

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

- Standards *are* important
- Professionals can plug shortcomings
- FIG has become a respected player
- But…. there is more work to be done