

Circular Memorandum No. 1 / 2023

TOPIC: **Compliance with Survey Mark Symbol Requirements of Survey Directions, Tasmania**

DATE: 6 June 2023

All Registered Land Surveyors and Candidates

Compliance with Survey Mark Symbol Requirements of Survey Directions, Tasmania

Schedule 2 of the *Survey Directions, Tasmania* (the Directions) specifies a small number of survey mark symbols that must be applied.

Under the Directions, “survey mark” has the meaning given by the *Surveyors Act 2002*, being a boundary mark, reference mark, traverse mark or permanent mark taking the form more particularly described in section 3.5.7.

Historically, there has been a practice for surveyors to use the corner mark symbol (■) at every corner of land under survey, including where there was no mark placed or found, and the descriptor “no mark” applied. That is, the symbol has been used to indicate a corner and not a mark. More recently it has been observed that there is an increasing tendency for surveyors, particularly those supervising candidates, to adopt this practice in relation to the re-established location of boundary corners that there is no requirement to mark and has also extended to surveyors displaying symbols for the re-established location of reference marks and permanent marks from prior surveys that did not exist at the time of the surveyor’s survey.

Careful consideration of the survey mark definition, clause 3.5.7 and schedule 2 in the Directions shows the previously tolerated practice of using a symbol where there is “no mark” is non-compliant. Further, the use of survey mark symbols where there are no survey marks is undesirable since:

- It works against the primary intent for the use of specified survey mark symbols, which is to provide a reader with information at a quick glance as to the existence and type of survey marks found or placed during a survey.
- It is increasing the time to prepare survey notes, since every mark symbol is attributed a unique identifier which may not be required for the purposes of boundary re-establishment reporting, or understanding, if a mark symbol were not shown.
- It increases the likelihood of duplicated or incorrect mark identifiers and associated non-compliance at LTO examination.

- It is creating unnecessary clutter on survey notes that is decreasing readability and reducing clarity.

Clarification of Survey Mark Symbol, Descriptor, and Identifier Requirements

The following practices must be adopted in survey notes prepared for a survey of land under the Directions:

- A survey mark symbol in Schedule 2 must only be used where a survey mark that is a boundary mark, reference mark, traverse mark or permanent mark was found or placed during the survey and is in existence at the time of attestation of the survey notes by the registered land surveyor. E.g., the symbol and descriptor '■ NM' is non-compliant and unnecessary.
- Corners where there is no mark are indicated by linework with no symbol. A unique identifier may be still used at a corner with no symbol if it is necessary for clarity, re-establishment reporting or describing a legal interest in real property.
- The descriptor 'CP', 'LP' etc must only be used if the boundary mark is a 75 x 75mm wooden peg described in section 3.5.7.1.1(a) or used in conjunction with the prefix 'P' per section 3.5.7.1.1(c). That is, the addition of these descriptors as a prefix or suffix to other boundary mark descriptors such as a 'star', 'DH in conc', etc is non-compliant and redundant (as the symbol indicates what type of boundary mark it is and the other descriptors are uniquely specified).
- Pursuant to the definition of survey mark, a post that is not a boundary mark or traverse mark does not need a symbol. I.e., posts measured on nearby occupation do not need a symbol and a descriptor is adequate.

Survey notes prepared for surveys commenced after the date of this circular must comply with these clarifications, which are consistent with the requirements envisaged for electronic survey data lodgement.

Use of Symbols not specified in the Survey Directions, Tasmania

The OSG has also noted an increasing use of other symbols and blocks, sometimes complex in design, developed by individual surveyors to convey information relating to aspects such as occupation – for example star picket, railway iron or other shaped blocks used to indicate individual post types (not a boundary mark) or occupation types. Whilst there is nothing to prevent the use of individually stylised blocks surveyors are requested to bear in the mind the priorities for survey notes in conveying information about a survey of land and avoid excessive use of such blocks which has been observed to add clutter and reduce readability in some instances. Individually developed blocks will also not be permitted in a CAD standard supporting electronic survey data lodgement.



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