

# FGDC Coordination Group Questionnaire on Agency Use of Address Data Files



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# Background

## ◆ Many Agencies need the same Common Services and Data

- ◆ Addresses
- ◆ Associated Latitude/Longitude Coordinate
- ◆ Building footprint/building location
- ◆ Geocoding
- ◆ CASS Certification

## ◆ Hope Questionnaire can:

- ◆ Establish national dialogue to make the case for a national address database



# Questionnaire on Agency Use of Address Data Files Administered June-Aug, 2011

40 Responses,  
17 Different Agencies:

General Services Administration

US Census Bureau

Veterans Administration

Department of Defense

Center for Disease Control

Small Business Administration

US Fish and Wildlife Service

National Archives and Records Administration

Department of Housing and Urban Development

National Geospatial Intelligence Agency

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement

Environmental Protection Agency

US Geological Survey

US Department of Agriculture



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Department of State

Library of Congress



**2. Does your Department, Bureau, or Agency standardize and/or geocode address data from administrative records, censuses, surveys, or other sources?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		89.3%	25
No		10.7%	3
		answered question	28
		skipped question	12



**3. Please identify approximately how many addresses your Department, Bureau, or Agency geocodes and/or standardizes per year.**

	Response Count
<a href="#">Show replies</a>	22
<b>answered question</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>skipped question</b>	<b>18</b>

250 million
Hundreds of Millions
estimated 60,000
unknown
12,000
5000
100
billions
10,000
100,000




500,000
18,000
9 million (enrollment data)
over 539,000 (in real property inventory alone)
Greatly varies and dependes on survey activity per year
25, but only in one year
0
300
no idea
Don't Know

4. For what purpose[s]? (check all that apply)			
		Response Percent	Response Count
mailing		37.5%	9
personal visit		29.2%	7
survey sample frame		25.0%	6
emergency response		54.2%	13
regulatory/enforcement		33.3%	8
visualization and analysis		87.5%	21
	Other (please specify) <a href="#">Show replies</a>		11
	<b>answered question</b>		<b>24</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>		<b>16</b>



- Maintain Address File
- Aggregate and Tabulate data by geographic location
- Office Locations and Reporting
- For a Reference Database
- Asset Management, Project Management, Data Collection
- Policy Development and Planning for Delivery of services
- Annual Address review required for all real property
- For administering Surveys
- Property inventory of Buildings, engineer needs for design of new facilities
- Surveillance activities, licensure











**5. Does your agency require and/or use address data for residential, commercial or industrial structures? (Check all that apply)**

		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
<b>Residential</b>		82.6%	19
<b>Commercial</b>		87.0%	20
<b>Industrial</b>		65.2%	15
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>23</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>17</b>

**6. Does your agency use or have address point file(s) with lat/long coordinates?**

		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
<b>Yes</b>		85.2%	23
<b>No</b>		14.8%	4
<b>Do not have, need</b>		0.0%	0
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>27</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>13</b>

7. How are the lat/long coordinates created or acquired? (Check all that apply)



		Response Percent	Response Count
geocoded in-house		61.5%	16
geocoded by outside vendor		46.2%	12
collected via GPS		53.8%	14
derived from imagery		42.3%	11
derived from parcel data		26.9%	7
acquired from state, tribal, local partners		19.2%	5
Volunteered Geographic Information (OpenAddresses, etc)		11.5%	3
purchased/leased		19.2%	5
		Other (please specify) <a href="#">Show replies</a>	8
<b>answered question</b>			<b>26</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>14</b>



- Corresponding coordinate reference for geocodes as found in gazetteers constructed for that purpose
- Some applications have a push pin capability to add point features to a map
- Inherited from other files during the matching process
- Relative to the feature lat/long coords are collected during various field operations. Exploring other options such as partnership and parcel data for the future






8. Does your agency need addresses that are associated with any of the following? (check all that apply)

		Response Percent	Response Count
	Point on (or offset from) a routable road and street network (X, Y, optional Z)	 54.2%	13
	Point at the front door (X, Y, Z)	 37.5%	9
	Point at the mail box (X, Y, Z)	 4.2%	1
	Point at the center or inside the parcel (X, Y, Z)	 41.7%	10
	Polygon footprint of the parcel.	 41.7%	10
	Point at the center or inside of the building footprint (X, Y, Z)	 50.0%	12
	Polygon footprint of the building	 54.2%	13
	3-D representation of the building	 37.5%	9
	Unit (apartment, office) within building	 41.7%	10
	Point for room where voter sleeps	 8.3%	2
	Other spatial representation (please specify) <a href="#">Show replies</a>		4
	<b>answered question</b>		<b>24</b>
	<b>skipped question</b>		<b>16</b>

Point at emergency entrance  
 Point at loading/commercial dock  
 Point at entrance gate/access control point



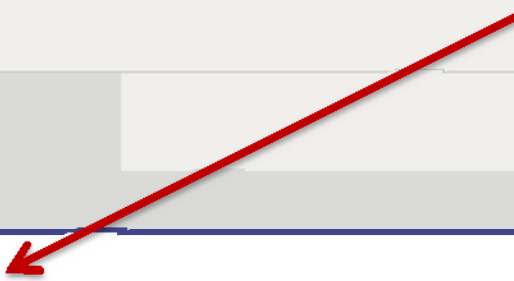
9. If individual addresses are not available or do not exist for some sections of roads or streets (or even if they do), does your agency use any of the following?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Interpolated addresses within an address range.		66.7%	16
Linearly referenced points along routes, e.g. mile points.		29.2%	7
Spherical or grid coordinates, e.g. lat-long, UTM, SPCS, USNG, PLSS		50.0%	12
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>24</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>16</b>



10. Are the address points associated with address descriptions/or address data? (such as site address, mailing address, or parcel id)

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	66.7%	18
No	33.3%	9
If yes, please list all: <a href="#">Show replies</a>		13
answered question		27
skipped question		13



- Location Address, Mailing Address and/or Location Descriptions
- Complete Address on one line
- Physical site address only
- Farmer/rancher/cooperator associated with an agricultural field
- Mailing and location addresses and location descriptions
- Outer continental Shelf Block Number
- Site address
- OBO has Worldwide Portfolio Address for Worldwide inventory
- Address descriptions, mailing address, lat-long
- Site address and mailing address

11. If address points are purchased or leased, from what company do you acquire them? (Check all that apply)

	Response Percent	Response Count
Tele Atlas	64.3%	9
Navteq	28.6%	4
Pitney Bowes	7.1%	1
ESRI	64.3%	9
CoreLogic	0.0%	0
Other (please identify) <a href="#">Show replies</a>		7
<b>answered question</b>		<b>14</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>26</b>

- Dept. of Housing & Urban Development
- Not allowed to publicly disclose data elements purchased with company identified

3 Not Applicable

1 unknown

12. If address points are created in-house, what software do you use?

	Response Percent	Response Count
ESRI	94.1%	16
Pitney-Bowes	23.5%	4
Geolytics	0.0%	0
Other (please specify) <a href="#">Show replies</a>		7
<b>answered question</b>		<b>17</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>23</b>

We geocode using PB Group 1 software and map the lat/longs in ESRI ARCGIS

unknown

I don't know

Google

various; unable to specify because that information not available at this time

In house systems

N/A

13. Approximately how much do you spend annually to acquire geocoding/address standardization services and/or address points (purchase, lease, or in-house software/hardware). \$

Response  
Count

Show replies

20

answered question

20

skipped question

20

10 “Don’t Know”

\$2,000 to \$200,000 per year



14. If you have in-house or contract support staff dedicated to this activity, approximately how much do you spend annually for this activity? \$

Response  
Count

Show replies

17

answered question

17

skipped question

23

10 "Don't Know"

\$ 750,000

\$ 50,000

\$ 20,000

\$ 500,000

**\$1,320,000**

*Just for those that do know!*



15. If you use your list for mailing, have you used software or services to standardize your address list for mailing? (i.e. CASS certification)

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	22.2%	4
No	77.8%	14
If yes, please identify: <a href="#">Show replies</a>		7
<b>answered question</b>		<b>18</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>22</b>

- Our software provides CASS certification but is not used
- CARRA standardizes the addresses and other divisions do the mailing.
- Not to my knowledge
- unknown
- Varies - In House and COTS software
- not sure



## 16. What is your update frequency requirement for the address data?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Daily	0.0%	0
Quarterly	41.2%	7
Annually	58.8%	10
Other (please specify) <a href="#">Show replies</a>		11
<b>answered question</b>		<b>17</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>23</b>

- As necessary per address/project
- Twice/year
- Monthly
- On demand
- As needed- event driven
- Some quarterly/most annually
- Working on setting rules
- Varies but generally annually
- Depends on the program
- Unknown

17. What types of address metadata do you currently store or are you interested in?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Source	66.7%	16
Lifecycle (built, address assigned, address changed, etc.)	37.5%	9
Occupancy Status (Vacant, burned out, partially built)	45.8%	11
Mailing Address, Situs Address or Location Description	79.2%	19
Parcel ID	41.7%	10
Census Tract, Census Block	54.2%	13
Lat/Long Coordinate	83.3%	20
Residential, Commercial use	50.0%	12
Multi-unit information	41.7%	10
Field validated	29.2%	7
Other (please specify) <a href="#">Show replies</a>		4
<b>answered question</b>		<b>24</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>16</b>

Not sure, N/A, Unknown



18. What types of address metadata do you not currently store but would like to have?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Source		33.3%	5
Lifecycle (built, address assigned, address changed, etc.)		46.7%	7
Occupancy Status (Vacant, burned out, partially built)		20.0%	3
Mailing Address, Situs Address, Location Description		26.7%	4
Parcel ID		40.0%	6
Census Tract, Census Block		46.7%	7
Lat/Long Coordinate		33.3%	5
Residential, Commercial use		46.7%	7
Multi-unit information		26.7%	4
Field validated		66.7%	10
		Other (please specify) <a href="#">Show replies</a>	1
<b>answered question</b>			<b>15</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>25</b>



locational accuracy estimate, Method of collection, typically collect/track/attach a number of other locational attributes such as congressional district, airshed, hydrologic unit code/Watershed Boundary District, tribal land & more

19. Please identify any documentation that is currently in your agency for addresses (guidance, standards, standard operating procedures or reference materials). Are you aware of the FGDC United States Thoroughfare, Landmark, and Postal Address Standard? Do you use it?

- 10 Agencies are aware of the FGDC United States Thoroughfare, Landmark, and Postal Address Standard
- 2 Not aware of it
- None are using it yet
- Most do plan to use it
- One is working on an implementation plan
- One is developing minimum guidelines for CONUS and Puerto Rico Addresses based on the standard
- One is aware of it, but not sure if other parts of the agency are cognizant of it



**20. Please identify any problems/issues have you encountered while trying to acquire and/or maintain address information?**

- Lat/long not always accurate
- Lack of complete public national address dataset associated with accurate public road and street dataset, structure (building) dataset, and parcel dataset
- Sharing address information is prohibited: limits the benefits other agencies and organizations can gain by partnering with us
- For data acquisition, we must meet certain criteria to purchase certain data elements for which we cannot meet the requirements
- Updates for city postal Information (state, city, zip) and the corresponding place level geography is difficult to maintain and update references as needed
- Rural areas centerline completeness, transient zipcodes, incomplete program data
- Agency does not have an overall strategy in place at this point but our Working Group will come up with a solution
- Cannot find all addresses at the street level
- Many assets are located in places which do not lend themselves to addressing (e.g., remote locations, not on a developed road)

**20. Please identify any problems/issues have you encountered while trying to acquire and/or maintain address information?**

- The data entry procedures for recording addresses is not standard across the Department
  - Road name and number conventions are not standard
  - GIS data and maps are not widely available to those who maintain address data
  - Emergency responders need location data more specific than mailing address
  - Address data geocoded into lat/long is often wildly inaccurate
  - Most still think an address is a good way to define location. It is a highly problematic form of location data for use in modern IT systems and for emergency response. This misunderstanding leads to resistance to resourcing current technologies or improved data
- Some geocoded addresses on a state route do not show in the correct area or the specific point is not attainable in the more rural areas of Oregon, Washington and Idaho
  - Data quality in urban areas typically good, many issues with rural areas where there often is no street address, just PLSS reference, approximate direction, and distance from a town, or mile/km marker along a route

**21. Please identify any other issues or unique agency requirements not previously mentioned.**

GSA supports the development of a government-wide geocoding service based on common standards and protocols. It is unlikely that it would support a nationally consistent and standardized address database that is publicly available. The location of Federal Buildings and Facilities is considered a security risk.

Our agency does not want to process cadastral information--it's incompatible with our legal guidance. In support of our disaster response tasking, we sometimes derive lat/lon values using addresses for businesses, but this is only in a support function. We have no organic requirement for the data.

One issue we need to address is to find a way to continuously update the rural areas of the country. We are not allowed to disclose information about Title 26 data elements or share the Title 26 data with any other area in agency, e.g., we cannot give anyone a list of data elements we receive from IRS.



**21. Please identify any other issues or unique agency requirements not previously mentioned.**

We need an agency-wide and/or partner wide geocoding solution. We do not currently have one but each program in CDC or agency in HHS does it on their own.

When errors are found in the road network or with the address, we need a mechanism to report the problem and have it fixed in an agreed-to cycle.

Our office has some addresses that are not presently available through different search capabilities to obtain geospatial coordinates. Also issues with Classified vs. SBU data.

OCS Blocks are shown on the Official Protraction Diagrams. The blocks are numbered sequentially; the OPDs numbers are based on the United Nations International Map of the World.

