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**Information Technology – Geographic Information  
Framework Data Content Standard  
Part 4: Geodetic control**

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164 **Foreword**

165 Geographic information, also known as geospatial information, both underlies and is the subject  
166 of much of the political, economic, environmental, and security activities of the United States. In  
167 recognition of this, the United States Office of Management and Budget issued Circular A-16  
168 (revised 2002), which established the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) as a  
169 coordinating organization.

170 Work on this standard started under the Geospatial One-Stop e-Government initiative. The  
171 standard was developed with the support of the member agencies and organizations of the  
172 FGDC and aids in fulfilling a primary objective of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI),  
173 that is, creation of common geographic base data for seven critical data themes. The seven core  
174 data themes are considered framework data of critical importance to the spatial data  
175 infrastructure.

176 The increasing need to coordinate collection of new data, identify applicability of existing data,  
177 and exchange data at the national level led to the submission of this standard to the ANSI  
178 process to become an American National Standard. The national standard contained in this  
179 document and its parts was sponsored by Technical Committee L1, Geographic Information  
180 Systems, of the InterNational Committee for Information Technology Standards (INCITS), an  
181 ANSI-accredited standards development organization.

182 As the Geographic Information Framework Data Content Standard was developed using public  
183 funds, the U.S. Government will be free to publish and distribute its contents to the public, as  
184 provided through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Part 5 United States Code, Section 552,  
185 as amended by Public Law No. 104-231, "Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments of  
186 1996".

## 187 **Introduction**

188 The Geographic Information Framework Data Content Standard, Part 4: Geodetic Control was  
189 developed with a certain philosophy which includes the following concepts:

- 190 • Keep it simple; have the fewest data elements possible, but make those data elements  
191 mandatory. This encourages use of the part.
- 192 • Anticipate which data elements surveying and mapping organizations, at all levels of  
193 government, have readily available. Again, this encourages use of the part.
- 194 • Use single data types, for example, coordinate types. Different organizations store their  
195 data or make them available using a variety of data types, for example, latitude longitude,  
196 State Plane coordinates, UTM coordinates, elevations in meters, elevations in feet, and  
197 so on. Because the data provider, the organization creating the data, is the one most  
198 knowledgeable about their data, they should be responsible for converting their data into  
199 this single data type. Multiple data types would make the part less useful to data users.  
200 The rationale for this concept is based on the availability of tools, validated through the  
201 Federal Geographic Data Committee/Federal Geodetic Control Subcommittee, for  
202 converting other types of horizontal coordinate values to latitude-longitude.
- 203 • Although geospatial data users often associate geodetic control coordinates with the  
204 highest accuracy coordinates attainable, there is no threshold set in this part for the  
205 accuracy of geodetic control coordinates, but the accuracy of the coordinates is a  
206 required data element.
- 207 • Make the part compatible with current GIS software so data users do not have to convert  
208 the data to import them into their systems.
- 209 • Require metadata supporting how the coordinates were derived and how their  
210 corresponding accuracy values were estimated.

211 This part of the Framework Data Content Standard has been developed to fulfill one of the  
212 objectives of the NSDI, namely, to create common geographic base data for seven critical data  
213 themes. These core themes are known as framework data, reflecting their critical importance as  
214 geographic infrastructure.

215 As stated in FRAMEWORK – Introduction and Guide, National Spatial Data Infrastructure, FGDC,  
216 1997 (p. 18):

217 “Geodetic control provides a common reference system for establishing the coordinate positions  
218 of all geographic data. It provides the means for tying all geographic features to common,  
219 nationally used horizontal and vertical coordinate systems. The main features of geodetic control  
220 information are geodetic control stations. These monumented points (or in some cases active  
221 Global Positioning System control stations) have precisely measured horizontal or vertical  
222 locations and are used as a basis for determining the positions of other points. The geodetic  
223 control component of the framework consists of geodetic control stations and related information  
224 – the name, feature identification code, latitude and longitude, orthometric height, ellipsoid height,  
225 and metadata for each station. The metadata for each geodetic control point contains descriptive  
226 data, positional accuracy, condition, and other pertinent characteristics for that point.

227 Geodetic control information plays a crucial role in developing all framework data and users’  
228 applications data, because it provides the spatial reference source to register all other spatial  
229 data. In addition, geodetic control information may be used to plan surveys, assess data quality,  
230 plan data collection and conversion, and fit new areas of data into existing coverages.”

231 The Federal Geodetic Control Subcommittee (FGCS) of the Federal Geographic Data Committee  
232 was established to promote standards of accuracy and currentness in geodetic data financed in  
233 whole or part by Federal funds; to exchange information on technological improvements for  
234 acquiring geodetic data; to encourage the Federal and non-Federal communities to identify and

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235 adopt standards and specifications for geodetic data; and to collect and process the requirements  
236 of Federal and non-Federal organizations for geodetic data. The lead agency responsible for the  
237 coordination, management, and dissemination of geodetic data is the Department of Commerce,  
238 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Service, National Geodetic  
239 Survey.

240

## 241 **Framework Data Content Standard – Geodetic control**

### 242 **1 Scope, purpose, and application**

#### 243 **1.1 Scope**

244 Geodetic control surveys are usually performed to establish the basic positional framework from  
245 which supplemental surveying and mapping are performed. Geodetic control surveys are  
246 distinguished by use of redundant, interconnected, permanently monumented control points that  
247 comprise the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS) or are often incorporated into NSRS.

248 Geodetic control surveys are performed to far more rigorous accuracy and quality assurance  
249 standards than those for local control surveys for general engineering, construction, or  
250 topographic mapping purposes. Geodetic control surveys included in NSRS meet automated  
251 data recording, submittal, project review, and least squares adjustment requirements established  
252 by the Federal Geodetic Control Subcommittee (FGCS).

#### 253 **1.2 Purpose**

254 This document provides a common methodology for creating datasets of horizontal coordinate  
255 values and vertical coordinate values for geodetic control points represented by survey  
256 monuments, such as brass disks and rod marks. It provides a single data structure for relating  
257 coordinate values obtained by one geodetic survey method (for example, a classical line-of-sight  
258 traverse) with coordinate values obtained by another geodetic survey method (for example, a  
259 Global Positioning System geodetic control survey).

#### 260 **1.3 Application**

261 This part of the Framework Data Content Standard is applicable to any geodetic control dataset  
262 and is intended to facilitate a common methodology to create, manage, and share geodetic  
263 control datasets from various organizations at the Federal, State, Tribal, and local government  
264 levels; academia; and the private sector.

265 Although this part does not encompass non-geodetic control points, such as Public Land Survey  
266 System points, local government control points, project control points for public and private  
267 projects, aerial-photo control points, and so on, it can be used as a model for other control points  
268 and coordinated points (see Annex D).

### 269 **2 Normative references**

270 Annex A lists normative references to standards that are applicable to this part of the Framework  
271 Data Content Standard. Informative references are listed in Annex E. Annex A of the Base  
272 Document (Part 0) lists normative references applicable to two or more parts of the standard.  
273 Annex D of the Base Document lists informative references applicable to all of the parts.

### 274 **3 Maintenance authority**

#### 275 **3.1 Level of responsibility**

276 The FGDC is the responsible organization for coordinating work on all parts of the Geographic  
277 Information Framework Data Content Standard. The U.S. Department of Commerce, National  
278 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Service, National Geodetic Survey,  
279 working with the FGDC, is directly responsible for development and maintenance of the  
280 Geographic Information Framework Data Content Standard, Part 4: Geodetic Control.

281 The FGDC shall be the sole organization responsible for direct coordination with the InterNational  
282 Committee for Information Technology Standards (INCITS) concerning any maintenance or any  
283 other requirements mandated by INCITS or ANSI.

#### 284 **3.2 Contact information**

285 Address questions concerning this part of the standard to:

286 Federal Geographic Data Committee Secretariat  
287 c/o U.S. Geological Survey  
288 590 National Center  
289 Reston, Virginia 20192 USA

290 Telephone: (703) 648-5514  
291 Facsimile: (703) 648-5755  
292 Internet (electronic mail): [gdc@fgdc.gov](mailto:gdc@fgdc.gov)  
293 WWW Home Page: <http://fgdc.gov>

294 Or

295 Director  
296 National Geodetic Survey, NOAA, N/NGS  
297 1315 East-West Highway  
298 Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910-3282.

## 299 **4 Terms and definitions**

300 Definitions applicable to the Geodetic Control part are listed below. More general terms can be  
301 found in the Base Document (Part 0).

### 302 **4.1** 303 **control point**

304 high-accuracy **coordinated point** used in determining the location of other points

### 305 **4.2** 306 **coordinated point**

307 point with location defined by coordinates

### 308 **4.3** 309 **geodetic control**

310 set of **control points** whose coordinates are established by geodetic surveying methodology

311 EXAMPLE classical line-of-sight triangulation, traverse, and geodetic leveling or satellite  
312 surveys such as Doppler or GPS

### 313 **4.4** 314 **geodetic datum**

315 datum describing the relationship of a coordinate system to the Earth [ISO 19111]

### 316 **4.5** 317 **horizontal geodetic control**

318 control points for which horizontal coordinates that have been accurately determined can be  
319 identified with physical points on the Earth and used to provide horizontal coordinates for other  
320 surveys

### 321 **4.6** 322 **local accuracy**

323 correctness of the coordinates of a **control point** relative to the coordinates of other directly  
324 connected, adjacent **control points**

325 NOTE The reported local accuracy is an approximate average of the individual local accuracy values  
326 between this control point and other observed control points used to establish the coordinates of the control  
327 point.

328 **4.7**  
329 **National Spatial Reference System**  
330 **NSRS**

331 control framework for latitude, longitude, height, scale, gravity, orientation, and shoreline  
332 throughout the United States, comprised of coordinates of **geodetic control points** and models  
333 describing geophysical processes

334 **4.8**  
335 **network accuracy**

336 correctness of the coordinates of a **control point** with respect to the geodetic datum

337 NOTE For NSRS network accuracy classification, the datum is considered to be best expressed by the  
338 geodetic values at the Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) supported by the National  
339 Geodetic Survey (NGS). By this definition, the local and network accuracies at CORS sites are considered  
340 to be infinitesimal, that is to say, to approach zero.

341 **4.9**  
342 **North American Datum of 1983**  
343 **NAD 83**

344 horizontal and 3-dimensional geodetic datum for the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Central  
345 America, based on the Geodetic Reference System 1980 ellipsoid and derived from the  
346 adjustment of more than 250,000 horizontal geodetic control points

347 **4.10**  
348 **North American Vertical Datum of 1988**  
349 **NAVD 88**

350 orthometric height geodetic datum for the United States, Canada, and Mexico, based on a  
351 minimally-constrained adjustment of more than 750,000 vertical geodetic control points

352 **4.11**  
353 **relative accuracy**

354 accuracy that accounts for only random errors in a dataset

355 NOTE For positional data, the general measure of relative accuracy is an evaluation of the random  
356 errors (that is, where systematic errors and blunders have been removed) in determining the positional  
357 orientation (for example, distance, azimuth, elevation) of one point or feature with respect to another.

358 **4.12**  
359 **reference ellipsoid**

360 ellipsoid of specified dimensions and associated with a geodetic reference system or a geodetic  
361 datum

362 NOTE Coordinates given in this system are said to be with respect to the reference ellipsoid.  
363 Reference ellipsoids are most commonly ellipsoids of revolution (that is to say, have two of the three  
364 possible axes of equal length) and are sometimes called reference spheroids.

365 **4.13**  
366 **vertical geodetic control**

367 control points with accurately determined orthometric heights and/or ellipsoidal heights identified  
368 with physical points on the Earth that can be used to provide elevations for other surveys

## 369 **5 Symbols, abbreviated terms, and notations**

370 The following symbols, abbreviations, and notations are applicable to this part of the standard.  
371 More symbols, abbreviations, and notations applicable to multiple parts are listed in the Base  
372 Document (Part 0).

373 CORS – Continuously Operating Reference Stations

374 HARN – High Accuracy Reference Network

375 NGS – National Geodetic Survey

376 NAVD88 – North American Vertical Datum of 1988

377 URI – Uniform Resource Identifier

## 378 **6 Requirements**

### 379 **6.1 General**

380 For the purpose of this part of the Federal Data Content Standard, each geodetic control point  
381 shall have four (4) basic elements. They are:

- 382 • Designations
- 383 • Coordinates
- 384 • Accuracy
- 385 • Geodetic datum

386 Each element is described in detail in the following paragraphs. For an example, see Annex B.

### 387 **6.2 Designations**

388 Designations refer to three types of identifiers used for each point in the dataset: 1) a unique  
389 identifier (mandatory); 2) a descriptive identifier (optional); 3) a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI)  
390 (optional).

#### 391 **6.2.1 Unique identifier**

392 A unique identifier for each point within a dataset shall be composed of two parts: 1) a permanent  
393 identifier and 2) a namespace. The permanent identifier can be the organization's unique  
394 database identifier. The namespace is the organization's identifier (for example, abbreviation) for  
395 the organization who assigned/maintains the permanent identifier. The unique identifier allows  
396 traceability of each data point back to the organization and to other data held by that organization  
397 about the point. For example, NGS has a multitude of information about each geodetic control  
398 point, but only the basic information conforming to this part need be contained in the produced  
399 dataset.

400 NOTE For geodetic control datasets, the uniqueness of namespace is maintained by the National  
401 Geodetic Survey through Input Format and Specifications of the National Geodetic Survey Data Base,  
402 Appendix C - Contributors of Geodetic Control Data, FGCS, 1994.

403 If an organization has separate components, each providing its own datasets, the namespace  
404 shall be unique within that organizational element. For example, the U.S. Army Corps of  
405 Engineers has several districts. The permanent identifier shall be unique within a particular  
406 district, and each district shall have its own organizational identifier. The combination of the  
407 permanent identifier and the namespace provides for a truly unique identifier.

#### 408 **6.2.2 Descriptive identifier**

409 A descriptive identifier, such as the designation/point name or stamping which provides the user  
410 with a more meaningful name for the point, facilitates certain interactions with the point, for

411 example, an understanding of what to physically look for in the field. Descriptive identifiers do not  
412 have to be unique within a dataset.

### 413 6.2.3 URI

414 A permanent URI, such as a URL, which provides the user with a direct link to an Internet-based  
415 resource that facilitates certain interactions with the point, for example, a link to an NGS  
416 datasheet or a scanned tie-sheet image. URI do not have to be unique within a dataset.

## 417 6.3 Coordinates

### 418 6.3.1 General

419 Coordinates are of two types: horizontal and vertical. If only approximate values are present,  
420 they shall be used with their corresponding accuracies.

421 Data providers shall provide the best set of coordinates available at the time of the request, but  
422 coordinates could change in the future based on improved, that is to say, more accurate,  
423 observational techniques. Data users are encouraged to be cautious and use the latest set of  
424 coordinate values. Typically geodetic coordinates do not change by more than their stated  
425 network accuracy.

### 426 6.3.2 Horizontal coordinates

427 The curvilinear system of latitude and longitude is required. Latitudes shall be referenced as  
428 positive north and negative south. Longitudes shall be referenced as positive east and negative  
429 west. If only an approximate value is available, use it along with its corresponding accuracy. The  
430 mandatory unit for latitude and longitude is decimal degrees.

### 431 6.3.3 Vertical coordinates

#### 432 6.3.3.1 General

433 Vertical coordinates consist of two types, orthometric height and ellipsoid height. Either  
434 orthometric or ellipsoid height shall be provided, and both shall be provided if both are measured.  
435 If only approximate values are available, provide at least one, along with its corresponding  
436 accuracy. The mandatory unit for height values is meters.

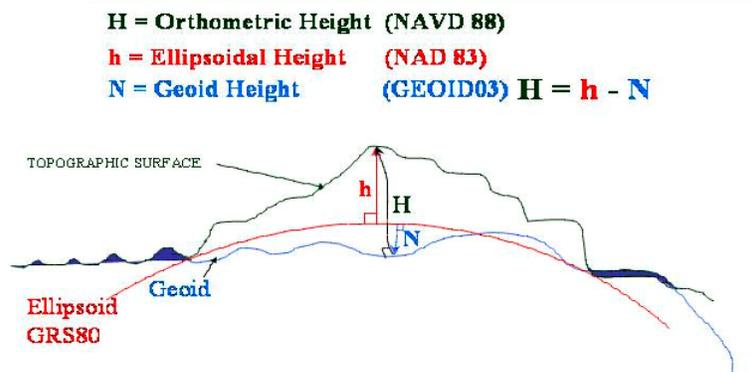
#### 437 6.3.3.2 Orthometric height

438 Orthometric height shall be provided if measured, for example, by precise optical or electronic bar  
439 code leveling; vertical angle; or GPS.

#### 440 6.3.3.3 Ellipsoid height

441 Ellipsoid height shall be provided if measured, for example, by GPS.

442



443

444 **Figure 1 – Relationship between orthometric, ellipsoidal, and geoid heights**

445

## 446 **6.4 Accuracy**

447 Local and network accuracies shall be provided in meters, expressed at the 95% confidence  
448 level. See FGDC-STD-007.2, Geospatial Positioning Accuracy Standards, Part 2: Geodetic  
449 Control Networks, for the methodology for defining local and network accuracies.

450 NOTE See Annex C for guidance on estimating local and network accuracy values for geodetic control  
451 established using the older (for example, first order) methodology.

## 452 **6.5 Geodetic datum**

### 453 **6.5.1 General**

454 Horizontal coordinates and ellipsoid heights shall be referenced to the North American Datum of  
455 1983 (NAD 83) and shall include the datum tag (for example, "NAD 83 (1986)") and the  
456 coordinate epoch date (for example, "[1997.0]"), for example, "NAD 83 (1986) [1997.0]". See also  
457 the Federal Register Notice, 1989.

458 Orthometric heights shall be referenced to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD  
459 88). See also the Federal Register Notice, 1993.

### 460 **6.5.2 Datum tag**

461 The datum tag represents the date of the regional least squares adjustment associated with the  
462 horizontal geodetic control point. NAD 83 (1986) indicates horizontal coordinate values and  
463 ellipsoid height values on the NAD 83 datum resulting from the North American Adjustment  
464 completed in 1986. NAD 83 (ccyy) indicates coordinate values on the NAD 83 datum for the  
465 North American Adjustment, but readjusted to a State or regional High Accuracy Reference  
466 Network (HARN) during the year shown in parentheses (ccyy). See Annex B for an example.

### 467 **6.5.3 Epoch date**

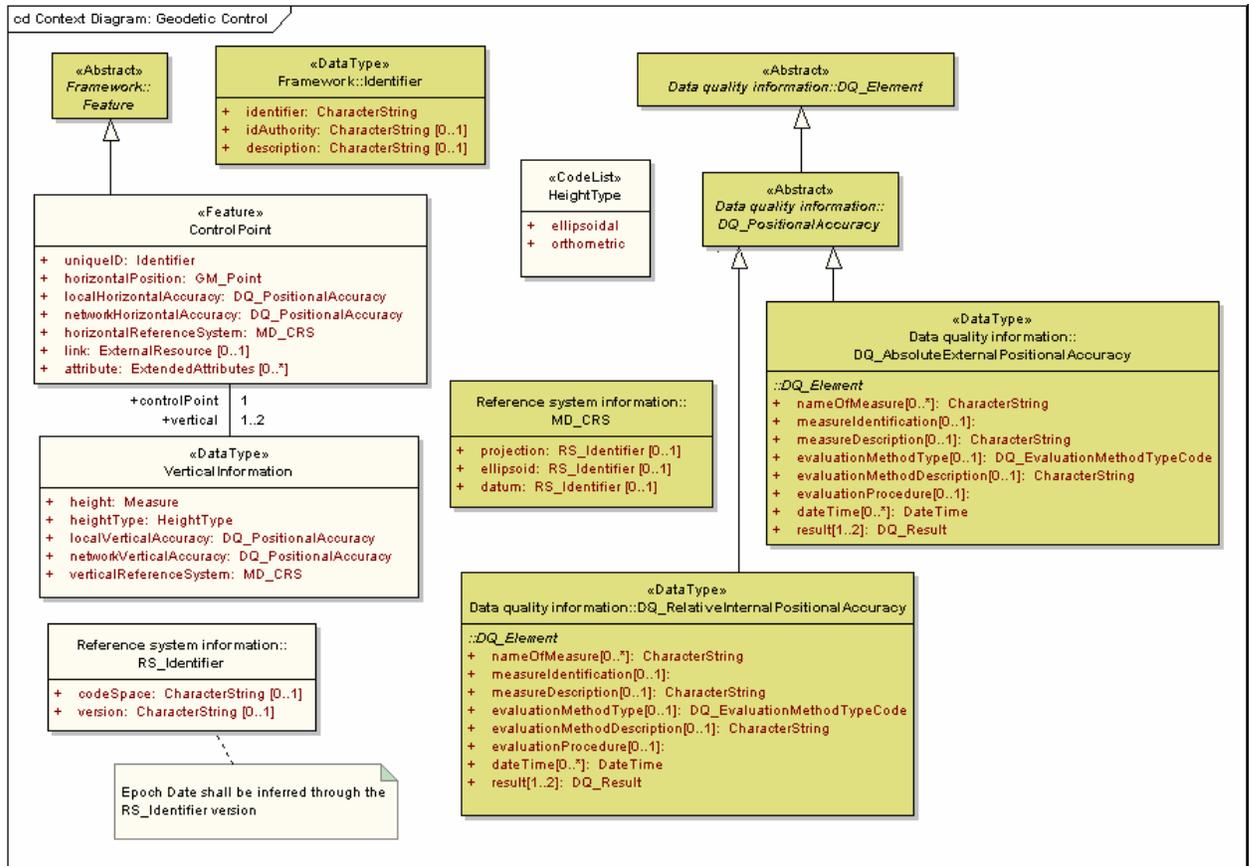
468 The epoch date shall be used for control points in regions of episodic and/or continuous  
469 horizontal and vertical crustal motion where the coordinates change with time. The epoch date  
470 indicates the date the published horizontal coordinates and heights are valid. All points with  
471 adjusted horizontal coordinates and/or heights that fall within a crustal motion region shall have  
472 an epoch date based on the date of the latest survey from which the coordinates were  
473 determined. Points outside crustal motion regions shall not have an epoch date.

## 474 **7 Geodetic control Unified Modeling Language (UML) model**

### 475 **7.1 Unified Modeling Language (UML) class diagram**

476

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477  
 478

Figure 2 – Geodetic control UML model

479 **7.2 UML objects**

480 **7.2.1 ControlPoint**

481 ControlPoint is a class that contains the identifier for the point (see 6.2.1), information about horizontal coordinates (see 6.3.2), accuracy (see 6.4),  
 482 and datum (see 6.5). ControlPoint also contains a link to a resource for the point (see 6.2.3). It also contains an association with the UML class  
 483 VerticalInformation.

484

485

**Table 1 – UML class – ControlPoint**

Line	Name/Role Name	Definition	Obligation/Condition	Maximum Occurrence	Data Type	Domain
1	ControlPoint				<<Feature>>	Lines 2-9
2	uniqueID	The permanent identifier can be the organization's unique database identifier	M	1	<<DataType>> Framework::Identifier	
3	horizontalPosition	Position of horizontal coordinates for the control point	M	1	<<Type>> GM_Point	Defined in ISO 19107
4	localHorizontalAccuracy	Local horizontal accuracy for the control point	M	1	<<Abstract>> Data quality information:: DQ_PositionalAccuracy	Defined in ISO 19115
5	networkHorizontalAccuracy	Network horizontal accuracy for control point	M	1	<<Abstract>> Data quality information:: DQ_PositionalAccuracy	Defined in ISO 19115
6	attribute	Producer-defined attribute for inclusion in the transfer	O	*	<<DataType>> Framework:: ExtendedAttributes	Unrestricted
7	horizontalReferenceSystem	Information about referenceSystem, namely, datum	M	1	MD_CRS	Defined in ISO 19115
8	link	Identification of an external resource that provides documentation for the point	O	1	<<DataType>> Framework:: ExternalResource	
9	Role name: vertical	Relationship with VerticalInformation	M	2	<<DataType>>	VerticalInformation

Line	Name/Role Name	Definition	Obligation/Condition	Maximum Occurrence	Data Type	Domain
					VerticalInformation	

486

487 **7.2.2 VerticalInformation**

488 VerticalInformation is a class that contains information about vertical coordinates associated with ControlPoint, including the type of height (see  
 489 6.3.3), accuracy (see 6.4), and datum (see 6.5). This class also contains an association with ControlPoint.

490

491

**Table 2 - VerticalInformation**

Line	Name/Role Name	Definition	Obligation/Condition	Maximum Occurrence	Data Type	Domain
10	VerticalInformation				<<DataType>>	Lines 11-16
11	height	Distance above or below datum	M	1	Measure	Unrestricted
12	heightType	Indicator if height is ellipsoidal or orthometric (although this information is inferred from the datum)	M	1	<<CodeList>> HeightType	Restricted to the values in the code list HeightType
13	localVerticalAccuracy	Local vertical accuracy for the control point	M	1	<<Abstract>> Data quality information:: DQ_PositionalAccuracy	Defined in ISO 19115
14	networkVerticalAccuracy	Network vertical accuracy for control point	M	1	<<Abstract>> Data quality information:: DQ_PositionalAccuracy	Defined in ISO 19115
15	verticalReferenceSystem	Information about referenceSystem, namely, datum	M	1	MD_CRS	Defined in ISO 19115
16	Role name: controlPoint	Relationship to control point	M	1	<<Feature>> ControlPoint	ControlPoint

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493 **7.2.3 RS\_Identifier**

494 RS\_Identifier is a class that contains information about the namespace used for the reference system, namely the datum.

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**Table 3 – RS\_Identifier**

Line	Name/Role Name	Definition	Obligation/Condition	Maximum Occurrence	Data Type	Domain
17	Reference system information:: RS_Identifier	Identifier used for reference systems	Use obligation/ condition from referencing object	Use maximum occurrence from referencing object	<<DataType>>	Lines 18-19
18	codeSpace	Name or identifier of the person or organization responsible for maintenance of the namespace	O	1	CharacterString	Defined in ISO 19115
19	version	Version identifier for the namespace	O	1	CharacterString	Defined in ISO 19115

497 **7.3 HeightType code list**

498 HeightType is a non-exhaustive CodeList of values for the attribute heightType.

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**Table 4 – Codelist for HeightType**

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Name	Definition
ellipsoidal	Distance of a point from the ellipsoid measured along the perpendicular from the ellipsoid to this point
orthometric	Distance measured along the plumb line between the geoid and a point on the Earth's surface, taken positive upward from the geoid [adapted from the National Geodetic Survey, 1986]

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**Annex A**  
**(normative)**  
**Normative references**

- 506 This annex lists normative standards that support only this part of the Framework Data Content  
507 Standard. Annex A of the Base Document (Part 0) lists normative references applicable to two or  
508 more parts of the standard.
- 509 FGDC-STD-007.2-1998, Geospatial positioning accuracy standards, Part 2: Standards for  
510 geodetic networks, [http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/status/sub1\\_2.html](http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/status/sub1_2.html), accessed January 2006
- 511 Federal Register Notice – Affirmation of datum for surveying and mapping activities; June 13,  
512 1989 (NAD 83)
- 513 Federal Register Notice – Affirmation of vertical datum for surveying and mapping activities; June  
514 23, 1993 (NAVD 88)

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**Annex B**  
**(informative)**  
**Example of geodetic control data content**

518 Below are example values for geodetic control.  
519 uniqueID = MN0298  
520 uniqueIDAssigner = NGS  
521 descriptiveID = PUMKIN  
522 URI = [http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/ds\\_mark.prl?PidBox=MN0298](http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/ds_mark.prl?PidBox=MN0298)  
523 coordinates – horizontal – latitude = 41.583365925  
524 coordinates – horizontal – longitude = -103.664305564  
525 coordinates – horizontal – accuracy – local = 0.046  
526 coordinates – horizontal – accuracy – network = 0.066  
527 coordinates – horizontal – geodeticDatum – baseDatum = NAD 83  
528 coordinates – horizontal – geodeticDatum – datumTag = 1995  
529 coordinates – horizontal – geodeticDatum – epochDate = 1997.0  
530 coordinates – vertical – orthometricHeight = 1365.195  
531 coordinates – vertical – orthometricHeight – accuracy – local = 0.002  
532 coordinates – vertical – orthometricHeight – accuracy – network = 0.100  
533 coordinates – vertical – orthometricHeight – geodeticDatum – baseDatum = NAVD 88  
534 coordinates – vertical – orthometricHeight – geodeticDatum – datumTag = none  
535 coordinates – vertical – orthometricHeight – geodeticDatum – epochDate = 2003.0  
536 coordinates – vertical – ellipsoidHeight = 1346.13  
537 coordinates – vertical – ellipsoidHeight – accuracy – local = 0.064  
538 coordinates – vertical – ellipsoidHeight – accuracy – network = 0.127  
539 coordinates – vertical – ellipsoidHeight – geodeticDatum – baseDatum = NAD 83  
540 coordinates – vertical – ellipsoidHeight – geodeticDatum – datumTag = 1995  
541 coordinates – vertical – ellipsoidHeight – geodeticDatum – epochDate = 1997.0

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## **Annex C (informative)**

### **User guidance for estimating local and network accuracy values**

545 Local accuracy for horizontal and vertical geodetic control points is similar to the older accuracy  
546 methodology, since they are both methods to describe the relative accuracy between points.  
547 Hence, the older methodology can be converted into local accuracy by taking the average length  
548 of line, using the older defined accuracy of the points, and converting that into a value in meters.  
549 Examples for horizontal and vertical surveys are:

- 550       • Second-order, class II horizontal survey (that is to say, 1:20,000) with average length line  
551       of 3,500 meters:  $3,500 \times 1/20,000 = 0.175$  meters
- 552       • Second-order, class II leveling survey (that is to say, 1.3 millimeters per square-root of  
553       the distance in kilometers) with an average bench mark spacing of 1 mile (that is to say,  
554       1.6 kilometers):  $0.0013 \times \text{SQRT}[1.6] = 0.0016$  meters

555 Network accuracy for horizontal geodetic control points can be estimated in two ways. First, if the  
556 NAD 83 coordinates are consistent with the original NAD 83 adjustment, for example, the original  
557 NAD 83 (1986), then the network accuracy has been determined to seldom exceed 1.0 meters.  
558 Second, if the NAD 83 coordinates are the result of a statewide or regional High Accuracy  
559 Reference Network (HARN) adjustment, then the network accuracy has been determined to  
560 seldom exceed 0.05-0.1 meter. If better values have been determined for network accuracy for  
561 the area covered by the specific dataset, then those values should be used in place of these  
562 general values.

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## **Annex D (informative) Control points and coordinated points**

566 There are various categories of points that are described with coordinates. The most general  
567 category is coordinated points which can be any point on the ground or on a map for which  
568 coordinates have been determined. There are also many methods for determining the  
569 coordinates of these points. A subset category of coordinated points is control points. Control  
570 points have several common characteristics:

- 571 • They are physical points on the ground which can be revisited or located for future use
- 572 • They are used for subsequent projects, that is to say, they themselves are not the end  
573 product
- 574 • Their coordinates are determined using more accurate techniques because they will be  
575 used to control or fit future spatial data activities

576 Geodetic control is one type or category of control points.

577 This part can be expanded with additional elements to make it fit the more general class of  
578 control points. For example, one attribute that could be added is control point TYPES. Some  
579 examples of these TYPES are:

- 580 • NSRS – geodetic control points whose coordinates have been verified and placed in a  
581 national database
- 582 • PLSS – Public Land Survey System points whose coordinates have been determined
- 583 • Property corner – lot or property points, non-PLSS, whose coordinates have been  
584 determined
- 585 • Photo control – photographic identifiable points set for aerial photography whose  
586 coordinates have been determined
- 587 • Right-of-way – right-of-way points whose coordinates have been determined
- 588 • Local control – random control points whose coordinates have been determined that are  
589 not multi-functional (that is to say, established for a single use) and are not NSRS

590 Because the subject of control points involves almost every FGDC subcommittee, the task of  
591 developing a data content standard for all control points is much more involved than for geodetic  
592 control alone.

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**Annex E  
(informative)  
Bibliography**

596 The following documents contain provisions that are relevant to this part of the Framework Data  
597 Content Standard. Annex D of the Base Document (Part 0) lists informative references  
598 applicable to two or more of the parts of the standard. For dated references, only the edition cited  
599 applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document applies.

600 Federal Geodetic Control Subcommittee, FGDC, Input formats and specifications of the National  
601 Geodetic Survey Data Base, FGCS, 2003, Silver Spring, MD,  
602 <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/FGCS/BlueBook/pdf/hContents.pdf>, accessed January 2006