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Surveying Abroad – Notes for Guidance (as at 14 May 2010)

The Boards of Surveyors of Australia and New Zealand (the Boards) and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) have jointly prepared this advice which sets out the general requirements for cadastral surveyors wishing to practice overseas. It was agreed as a statement for the guidance of surveyors wishing to practice abroad at a meeting of the Boards in Adelaide on 14 May 2010.

It is important for surveyors to recognize the fundamentally different roles which the Boards and RICS fulfill. The Boards have been established under government legislation to protect the integrity of the cadastre in their jurisdiction whereas RICS is a professional body which recognizes both Professional and Technical Surveyors. This notice for guidance is directed to surveyors who are registered/licensed/authorized to undertake cadastral surveys for the Boards (termed licensed cadastral surveyors here) or are Professional Surveyors in the Geomatics Group of RICS. The academic, training and assessment standards for these two groups of surveyors are similar (but not identical).

Each surveyor will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by each Board and RICS, but the following statements represent, in general, the expected pathways which the Boards and RICS believe will apply.

Travelling from Australia or New Zealand:

- RICS offer licensed cadastral surveyors with 10 years experience after licensing direct membership (MRICS) as a 'Chartered Land Surveyor' of the Geomatics Group upon proof of current cadastral licensing via a letter of accreditation from their Board. These surveyors would then be bound by the Ethics system of RICS.
- Licensed cadastral surveyors with from 5 to 10 years experience after licensing would have to undertake the RICS APC Final Assessment before being granted membership (MRICS) as a 'Chartered Land Surveyor' of the Geomatics Group.
- Licensed cadastral surveyors with under 5 years experience (before or after licensing) would be required to complete the 24 month RICS Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) to be granted membership (MRICS) as a 'Chartered Land Surveyor' of the Geomatics Group. They could register to start the RICS APC process one year before the expected date of gaining the cadastral surveying license and must complete at least 12 months APC experience after licensing.

Travelling to Australia or New Zealand:

- Professional Surveyors of the Geomatics Group of RICS, who hold appropriate tertiary qualification, are invited to apply to any of the Trans Tasman Boards to become a candidate for registration. Appropriate qualifications are at least of the standard of a 4 year degree in Surveying in Australia or New Zealand.
- Professional Surveyors of the Geomatics Group of RICS are expected to familiarize themselves with the local cadastral and land titling system in a Board's jurisdiction during a period of 12 months of practical cadastral surveying under the supervision of a licensed cadastral surveyor. For surveyors with some prior experiences in Australasia, this period could be varied at the Board's discretion.
- After that time they would be subjected to the competency assessment process of their chosen cadastral jurisdiction (portfolio of work undertaken or other assessments as appropriate).
- Depending on the level and extent of tertiary qualifications in cadastral surveying and land law, each Board may require completion at tertiary level of subjects in topics such as land law and cadastral surveying. This may be done by full or part-time attendance or distance learning depending on the jurisdiction.

The detailed requirements for assessment in each cadastral jurisdiction in Australasia do vary from time-to-time and, in the first instance, RICS Geomatics members should consult with the Registrar/Secretary of the Board of Surveyors in that state or territory. Similarly licensed cadastral surveyors should contact their local RICS office.