

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The only universally recognized map accuracy standard is the National Map Accuracy Standard. It was adopted in 1941 to aid in the procurement of hardcopy map products by federal agencies. The National Map Accuracy Standard (NMAS) is generally recognized as not being specific enough to meet the accuracy needs for large scale or local government not being specific enough to meet the accuracy needs for large scale or local government mapping products. The NMAS may continue to be used for generalized small scale mapping at scales of less than 1:100,000, but a new standard is needed within Virginia to provide detailed accuracy requirements and verification procedures to state, regional, and local governing bodies for preparing map specifications for larger scale maps.

The use of digital mapping data throughout the Commonwealth is increasing and the requirement for local, regional, and state groups to share such data is especially important as government activities are streamlined and coordinated. This model standard will provide the information needed to guide the collection and labeling of hardcopy and digital map products and will facilitate the exchange of map data by ensuring that maps of the same scale and class developed by different groups are indeed compatible. This model standard will provide:

- a common recognized standard to guide the collection of data for all map scales;
- a common method for verifying and interpreting the data collected and map products produced; and
- a common method of labeling data and map products.

PURPOSE

This model standard is based on the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) Accuracy Standards for Large-Scale Maps. It was developed to serve as a common standard that can be used by state, regional, and local governing bodies in Virginia to meet their needs for a map accuracy standard.