

CODE OF PRACTICE LAND SURVEY ORDINANCE (Chapter 473)

First Edition - 5th October 1995

*With amendments of Corrigendum No. 1/96 (November) incorporated

CODE OF PRACTICE

LAND SURVEY ORDINANCE

(Cap. 473)

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I GENERAL

- 1. These regulations state the requirements for carrying out all land boundary surveys in Hong Kong under the Land Survey Ordinance (LSO).
- 2. For the purpose of control of land boundary surveys, every Authorized Land Surveyor (ALS) shall carry out land boundary surveys in compliance with the Land Survey Ordinance and these regulations.

II INTERPRETATION

3. The following are the definitions of the terms used in these regulations:-

"adopted" data means the traverse or land boundary information accepted from previous survey.

"boundary mark" means a survey mark which demarcates a parcel of land.

"boundary stone" means a boundary mark made from white granite, or concrete slab established by the Survey and Mapping Office of Lands Department to demarcate a parcel of land.

"calibration" means the process of checking of a distance measuring equipment against a standard baseline established by the Survey and Mapping Office of Lands Department for corrections to be made to measured lines.

"control survey station" means a survey station emplaced and mathematically fixed under the Hong Kong Control Survey System.

"grid lines" means lines drawn on a map or plan in the form of rectangular grid under the Hong Kong Control Survey System.

"Hong Kong Control Survey System" means the current network of survey stations, emplaced and mathematically fixed, based on the "Hong Kong 1980 Geodetic Datum (HK80)" by the Survey and Mapping Office of Lands Department.

"Hong Kong 1980 Geodetic Datum (HK80)" means the survey datum used by the Survey and Mapping Office, Lands Department since 1980.

"party wall" means a wall wherein the common boundary of two land parcels is located.

"permanent survey mark" means a survey mark established by a land boundary survey for future use and reference.

"picket box" means a control survey station enclosed by a cast iron box."

"survey mark" means a mark defining a surveyed position.

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"survey station" means a survey mark over which survey observations are made.

"traverse" means a series of lines between survey stations established by angular and linear measurements starting and closing onto control or old traverse survey stations.

"urban survey mark" means a control survey station made of metal in a mushroom like shape. The shape the state of the shape the state of the state of

III CONDUCT OF LAND BOUNDARY SURVEYS

In order to maintain a uniform standard practice for all land boundary surveys, Authorized Land Surveyors are required to adhere to the following regulations:-

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4. The first page of the field notes of every survey shall bear the certificate signed by the Authorized Land Surveyors in the following form:

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I,, an Authorized Land Surveyor registered under the Land Survey Ordinance (Cap. 473), hereby certify that these field notes, consisting of pages, are a correct and complete record of the observations and measurements made in the field, either by me, or under my immediate direction and supervision.

I also certify that the land boundary survey, of which the field notes form a part, was carried out in conformity with the Code of Practice approved by the Land Survey Authority under the above Ordinance, and that the survey was completed on theday of, 19.....

Dated thisday of......19.....

Authorized Land Surveyor

5. An Authorized Land Surveyor or his assistants who carry out the land boundary surveys shall initial and date each page of the field notes. Where an assistant is carrying out the survey under the direction of an authorized land surveyor the latter or his delegate will additionally initial and date those pages of the field notes where the survey has been tested or otherwise checked by him and/or, other field instruction has been given.

- 6. Field notes shall be prepared for all land boundary surveys performed under the Ordinance and should be a complete original record of all field observations and field measurements recorded in the field. Printout from electronic data recorder shall bear the signature of the surveyor and shall contain equivalent information as contained in traditional field notes. Hand-written field notes shall be neatly and clearly recorded or annotated in permanent blue or black ink and shall not be obliterated, inked over or erased. Corrections may only be made by crossing out the erroneous entry in such a way that it remains legible, and writing the correct value above or alongside it.
- Field notes shall record the type and identification number of the instruments including theodolite, electronic distance meter (EDM) and steel tape etc. used for the survey. The first page shall show the designation of the land parcel, locality or such other reference or legal descriptions. The date of starting and completing the survey shall also be recorded.
- 8. All field notes and computations shall be properly kept for submission upon request by the Land Survey Authority.
- (B) Origin of co-ordinates & bearings
- 9. The origin of co-ordinates and bearings shall be obtained from :-
 - (a) The Hong Kong Control Survey System, or
 - (b) Any other survey which the Land Survey Authority accepts as suitable for the purposes of land boundary survey.

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- 10. The reliability of any two survey stations used for an origin of bearings shall be proved by testing their agreement with at least one other survey station.
- 11. Any one of the survey station proven reliable as in para. no. 10 above shall be acceptable as an origin of co-ordinates.
- 12. The survey tolerances stated in part IV shall be used when proving origins and obtaining agreements with old survey work in the field.

(C) Bearings, distances and co-ordinates Livings according to the first tree of the

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Bearings shall be measured with a theodolite reading to 20 seconds or better precision. Traverse bearings shall be made with a minimum of one arc on both face left and face right of the theodolite.

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- Bearings shall be recorded in the field notes in accordance with the precision of the 14. theodolite being used and shown on survey record plan and land boundary plan to the nearest 10 seconds. To facilitate the use of computer in computation and plan production, bearings may be shown on land boundary plan and survey record plan to the nearest 1 second without rounding off the figures.
- Distances shall be shown in metres and decimals of a metre and read and booked in 15. the field to 0.001 of a metre. Distance measurements shall be made with a steel tape or an electronic distance meter (EDM). All necessary corrections shall be applied.
- 16. Distances and co-ordinates shall be shown on survey record plans to 0.001 of a metre but shall be shown on the land boundary plan to the nearest 0.01 of a metre. To facilitate the use of computer in computation and plan production, distances and coordinates may also be shown on land boundary plan to the nearest 0.001 of a metre without rounding off the figures.

(D) Survey instruments

- Distance measuring instruments include steel tape and electronic distance meter 17. (EDM). Steel tape shall be checked against an adopted baseline, which is established by the Land Survey Authority, at intervals not exceeding 6 months, or immediately following repair. EDM instruments shall also be checked against an adopted baseline established by the Land Survey Authority annually or immediately following servicing.
- 18. A full report of each calibration shall be kept by the Authorized Land Surveyor for record purposes, and shall be presented for inspection when required by the Land Survey Authority.
- The Land Survey Authority may also inspect instruments used for a land boundary 19. survey to ascertain they are in an operating condition to the satisfaction of the Land Survey Authority.

(E) Traverses

- 20. Traverses shall start from and close onto control survey stations of the Hong Kong Control Survey System or traverse survey stations established in previously land boundary surveys as shown on deposited survey record plans. Before any traverse begins, the reliability of any two survey stations used for an origin should be proved by the Authorized Land Surveyor testing their agreement with at least a third survey station.
- 21. No unclosed traverses are allowed.
- 22. Control survey stations emplaced and mathematically fixed by the Survey and Mapping Office of Lands Department are normally in the form of concrete pillars, picket boxes and urban survey marks, and they are collectively described as control survey stations.
- 23. Traverse survey stations shall be marked by one of the following survey marks, details for which are specified at *Appendix A*:-
 - (a) Iron tubes;
 - (b) Lead plugs;
 - (c) Iron spikes;
 - (d) Survey nails;
 - (e) Wooden pegs; or
 - (f) Cut marks. (cut marks shall only be used where other marks cannot be emplaced)
- 24. Angular misclosure for a traverse shall not exceed $(30 \sqrt{n})$ seconds where n is the number of survey stations in the traverse.
- 25. Linear misclosure for a traverse shall not exceed (10 + 2S/15) millimetres where S is the total length of the traverse in metres.
- 26. When a traverse longer than 1 km. is run, control bearings shall be observed reciprocally between traverse survey stations and some other control survey stations, at such station intervals as will adequately control the orientation of the traverse lines. The number of traverse survey stations between control bearings shall not be more than ten.
- 27. Traverse misclosures shall be mathematically adjusted.

(F) Boundary marking

- 28. Boundaries shall be marked at every corner, and where necessary at points on the boundary line if the corners are not intervisible.
- Where a boundary mark cannot be placed because of an obstruction the boundary 29. mark position shall be offset for establishing its position in future.
- Boundary marks shall be one of the following survey marks, details for which are 30. The second of the second of the specified at Appendix A:-
 - (a) Iron tubes:

 - (b) a Lead plugs; which is the second of the
 - Survey nails; (d)
 - Wooden pegs; or (e)
 - Cut marks (cut marks shall only be used where other marks cannot be emplaced)

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- Every boundary mark shall be placed by bearing and distance from a survey station 31. and checked independently by radiation from another survey station. Where double radiation is impracticable other checking method will be used to verify the accuracies intended. The same requirements apply when fixing the position of old marks, occupation and other elements essential to land boundary definitions.
- The setting out distance from a survey station to a boundary mark using steel tape 32. and EDM shall not exceed 20 metres and 150 metres respectively. They must be on and the rest of the legisle. checked independently and recorded accordingly. . to bus and a community
- Curved boundaries shall be marked at both end points and at least one other point on 33. the curve. In addition, curves shall be marked at intervals not exceeding 15 metres, measured along the chord.

(G) Permanent survey marks

- 34. At least two permanent survey marks (PSMs) shall be established for every land boundary survey in accordance with specifications at Appendix A. Where there are existing PSMs from previous land boundary surveys in the vicinity, they may be accepted as PSMs after verification.
- 35. All PSMs shall be fixed by double radiation. They shall be described with sketches in the field notes and shown on the survey record plan as to the type of survey mark and its position and height above ground level.

(H) Physical features

36. The positions of all buildings or prominent physical features, on or within 0.5 metre of a boundary line, shall be surveyed, calculated and shown as offsets on the survey record plan. Physical features beyond this and up to 3 metres need only be shown graphically.

- 37. Boundary on party wall shall have the offset distances in relation to the party wall shown on the survey record plan.
- Where a boundary is located in a party wall, or between abutting walls, checks must be carried out to confirm that the line of the party wall or the line between abutting wall is a straight line.

(I) Land boundary definition

- 39. The definition of lot boundaries shall be based on best evidence. Evidence includes relevant information obtainable from records (such as Demarcation District (DD) sheets, DD Control sheets, DD Enlargement, House Lot Plans, House Lot Plans Retrace, "A" sheet, Cadastral Survey Plans, DD Lot Identification Plan (I plan), Permanent Land Record Plan, Survey Record Plans (SRP), SRP equivalent data, Land Boundary Plans, Aerial photographs, Survey Sheets from Microfilm), as well as ground occupation and investigation, interviews and any other form of data that will support the position and dimensions of the lot under survey.
- 40. The Authorized Land Surveyor shall submit a report on the land boundary definition for a land boundary survey. The report should contain information such as evidence found and the rationale of how the boundaries are established. The report should include a copy of any Land Boundary Plan, Survey Record Plan, Identification Plan, Control Traverse and any other plan, sketch, photograph or document containing information or data, which have been used or based on for traverse origin and/or boundary definition or redefinition.

IV MEASUREMENTS AND SURVEY TOLERANCES SOCIETY

- 41. If a bearing, a distance or an area is remeasured or re-calculated for verification, re-establishment or whatever reasons, discrepancies are acceptable if they are within the listed tolerances below. The original values will then be adopted. If the discrepancies fall outside these tolerances the new values must be conclusively checked for correctness. If confirmed, the original values must be considered as superseded by the new values with reasons clearly recorded. The tolerances are:
 - (1) Survey tolerances Bearing measurements:

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<u>Distance</u>	1.41.15 f	Tolerance
under 15 m		±2' 00"
15 m - 150 m		±1' 00"
Over 150 m		$\pm 0'$ 30"

(2) Survey tolerances - Distance measurements:

Tolerance:

 $\pm (0.015 + 0.0001 \text{ x distance in metres})$ metre

(3) Survey tolerances - Area calculations:

Tolerance:

± 0.1 %

42. Areas shall be rounded off to the nearest unit as follows:

Area of Lot Under 2000 m ²	Expressed in sq. metre (m ²)	Rounded off to nearest 0.1 m ²	
2000 m ² and above	sq. metre (m ²)	1 m^2	

However, areas already committed may be exempted from this rule, in which case the formula in paragraph 41(3) will apply.

V ... LAND BOUNDARY PLANS ... good opened and

43. For the purpose of this Ordinance, a land boundary plan shall be prepared for division of land for attachment to the instrument for registration with Land Registry under the Land Registration Ordinance (Cap. 128). In addition, duplicate copy of the land boundary plan and survey record plan shall also be deposited with the Land Survey Authority.

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44. The land boundary plan shall satisfy the following requirements:

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- (1) Land parcel information:
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 - (b) Designation of the subject lot or parcel; All the
 - (c) The area of each lot or parcel;
 - (d) Notation and if applicable, the description of each boundary corner;
 - (e) Boundary dimensions of subject lot or parcel; and
 - (f) Abutting land information.
 - (2) Supporting information:
 - (a) Grid lines with co-ordinates;
 - (b) Location diagram of the site, where necessary;
 - (c) The plot, with details of colouring and abbreviations;
 - (d) Scale:
 - (e) Standard north point symbol; and
 - (f) Co-ordinates of each boundary corner may be shown at the discretion of the Authorized Land Surveyor.
 - (3) Plan size:

Any such plan and copy thereof shall be of A3 size or of such size as specified under the Section 8 of Land Registration Regulations (Cap. 128).

(4) Plan numbering:

Plan numbering shall be a similar counterpart to that of the corresponding survey record plan. Example:-

LBP/HK/001/0001/D₁

LBP = Land Boundary Plan

HK = Hong Kong (District Survey Office)

001 = Registration number of ALS

0001 = Plan number as prepared by the ALS

 $D_1 = Dimension Plan (D_1, D_2,...,D_n etc.)$ or

 $S_1 = Setting out plan (S_1, S_2,...,D_n etc.)$

Note: DSO Hong Kong and Kowloon shall be abbreviated to HK and KL respectively without any need to specify further whether it is east, west or central. For other DSOs, their abbreviations are shown in the brackets: Island (IS), North (DN), Sai Kung (SK), Shatin (ST), Tai Po (TP), Tsuen Wan (TW), Tuen Mun (TM) and Yuen Long (YL).

(TP), Tsuen Wan (TW), Tuen Mun (TM) and Yuen Long (YL).
Every land boundary plan shall be signed and certified by the Authorized Land Surveyor and bear a certificate in the following form:
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I,, an Authorized Land Surveyor registered under the Land Survey Ordinance (Cap. 473), hereby certify that this land boundary plan has been prepared from land boundary surveys that were carried out by me, or under my direct supervision, in conformity with the Code of Practice approved by the Land Survey Authority under the above Ordinance, and that this plan correctly represents that survey completed on the
Dated this day of 19
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Authorized Land Surveyor

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45. The survey record plan (SRP) is a plan which records survey data (including land boundaries, survey evidence, survey marks, traverses, alignments and significant ties to occupation and related features) used in a land boundary survey. The objectives of preparing a SRP are:

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- (1) to maintain repeatability such that:
 - (a) the SRP alone is able to ensure users to be able to maintain consistency of boundary definition,
 - (b) the SRP alone can allow a checker to satisfy that consistency has been achieved, and
 - (c) positive identification of marks and boundary features are made possible; and
- (2) to comprehensively convey what constitutes and marks the boundary. The SRP alone cannot reveal why a boundary is so defined or how decision has been made.
- 46. The survey record plan shall include the following information:
 - (1) Land parcel information:
 - (a) A to-scale plot of boundaries;
 - (b) Designation of the subject lot or parcel;
 - (c) The area of each lot or parcel;
 - (d) Notation and if applicable, description of each boundary corner;
 - (e) Boundary dimensions of subject lot or parcel;
 - (f) Co-ordinates of each boundary corner; and
 - (g) Abutting land information.
 - (2) Survey station information:
 - (a) A plot of survey stations;
 - (b) Description of the survey stations; and
 - (c) Bearings and distances of traverses.
 - (3) Supporting information:
 - (a) Grid lines with co-ordinates;
 - (b) Location diagram, inset diagram;
 - (c) Co-ordinates of points;
 - (d) Scale;
 - (e) Reference to relevant document and computations where necessary;

Standard north point symbol; (f) Setting out and PSM radiations if applicable (checking radiations are (g) not required to be shown); and (h) Positions and descriptions of PSMs. Again and the sight Harry Committee of the A Plan numbering: erta Mellik gera. Plan numbering shall be numbered as follows:-SRP/HK/001/0001/D₁(R) in the control of the second of the season o ring at the same of SRP = Survey Record Plan HK = Hong Kong (District Survey Office) 001 = Registration number of ALS 12 12 1998 46. 0001 = Plan number as prepared by the ALS $D_1 = Dimension Plan (D_1, D_2,...,D_n etc.)$ or $S_1 = Setting out plan (S_1, S_2, ..., D_n etc.)$ (R) = The corresponding land boundary plan have been registered with Land Registry. utia civiliani basa Note: DSO Hong Kong and Kowloon shall be abbreviated to HK and KL

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respectively without any need to specify further whether it is east, west or central. For other DSOs, their abbreviations are shown in the brackets: Island (IS), North (DN), Sai Kung (SK), Shatin (ST), Tai Po (TP), Tsuen Wan (TW), Tuen Mun (TM) and Yuen Long (YL).

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(5) Every survey record plan shall be signed and certified by the Authorized Land Surveyor and bear a certificate in the following form:

I,, an Authorized Land Surveyor registered under the Land Survey Ordinance (Cap. 473), hereby certify that this survey record plan has been prepared from land boundary surveys that were carried out by me, or under my direct supervision, in conformity with the Code of Practice approved by the Land Survey Authority under the above Ordinance, and that this plan correctly represents that survey completed on the day of 19

Dated t	his	day of		19	
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SPECIFICATIONS FOR SURVEY MARKS

- 1. <u>Iron tube</u> will consist of, a galvanised iron pipe at least 350 mm long, and 20 mm in diameter, driven vertically into the ground.
- 2. <u>Lead plug</u> will consist of a hole drilled or punched into hard surface filled with lead and centred with a tack. The hole should be at least 8 mm in diameter and at least 15 mm deep.
- 3. <u>Iron spike</u> will be at least 100 mm in length and 12 mm in diameter, driven into the ground to finish either flush with the ground surface or beneath it.
- 4. <u>Survey nail</u> will be at least 5 mm in diameter with a minimum length of 50 mm and will have a head of at least 10 mm in diameter.
- 5. Wooden peg will be made from hardwood and can be of two sizes:
 - (a) 25 mm square and 150 mm long, or
 - (b) 70 mm square and 400 mm long.

The position of the boundary corner will be marked on the top of the peg by a small metal tack.

- 6. <u>Cut mark</u> will consist of a hole 5 mm in diameter and at least 10 mm deep, drilled into hard surface. It will be surrounded by a triangle shaped groove with equal sides 100 mm long and at least 2 mm deep.
- 7. Permanent survey mark (PSM): Any of the survey marks 1 to 4 above fixed on a permanent feature may be used as a PSM. Alternatively a well defined physical feature may be used as a permanent survey mark as long as the feature chosen can be positively identified from a simple description or diagram on a survey record plan. No boundary mark shall be at a greater distance than 100 metres from a PSM.

DRAUGHTING SPECIFICATIONS FOR SURVEY RECORD PLANS

1. Plan form

- 1.1 All survey record plans shall be fair drawn in black ink, on the specified survey record plan form in a standard transparent format, size A2 (420 mm x 594 mm). The length of this form may be extended from 594 mm to 700 mm to include a second column for tabulation of bearings and distances where required.
- 1.2 A survey record plan shall be drawn on one plan form unless a reduction in scale will adversely affect the quality of the plan. Should two or more plan forms be required each sheet shall be boldly labelled 'sheet of sheets' and clear joining lines will be shown between sheets.

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2. Scale

All survey record plans shall be produced at a preferred metric scale e.g. 1:2000; 1:1000. 1:500; 1:200; 1:100 or 1:50, that will suitably and clearly illustrate the fully details of the survey. Where necessary intricate and cluttered detail shall be clarified by an enlarged and/or, distorted diagram.

3. Grid (plotting) lines

- Plans shall normally be plotted on a grid parallel to the sides of the plan form, north uppermost. However when the orientation of the survey dictates otherwise the grid may be tilted, but never be more than 90° from the normal north pointing.
- 3.2 The position of the grid lines shall be indicated by intersecting cuts at the plan border and at least two meridians and two perpendiculars, suitably spaced, shall be shown.

 The co-ordinate value of each grid line will be shown.

4. Plan drawing and detail

- 4.1 All survey record plans shall be drawn, either by computer plotter, by hand, or by a combination of both.
- 4.2 The plans shall clearly show all traverses run, information adopted from pervious surveys used for the boundary definition. Boundary and traverse lines adopted shall be annotated as such on the face of the plan. If possible traverse bearings and distances shall be shown on the face of the plan but may also be tabulated, with coordinates of the radiated points in the margin of the plan.

- All survey marks used shall be described on the face of the plan by type and number. In the case of old marks found or adopted, a reference to the adopted survey record plan shall be included, either beside the mark, or if all the old marks originate from the same survey, in the margin. Details of the ground placement of all marks except those placed flush in concrete roads and footpaths and those adopted will be shown. e.g. IS3 (road edge of channel); OIT7 (buried 0.10m).
- 4.4 New traverse survey marks shall be numbered consecutively, commencing from Arabic numeral 1. Boundary marks shall be labelled alphabetically in consecutive order in a clockwise direction from the most northerly north-west corner, if Z is reached then the sequence shall be continued by prefixing A to the alphabet, then B, and so on. e.g. Z, AA, AB, etc. The letters I and O will not be used.
- 4.5 The legal description of the subject lot or parcel and its abuttals as well as all relevant road and street names shall be shown on the face of the plan.
- 4.6 Areas of all land parcels will be shown on the face of the plan.
- 4.7 Lines which have been observed but not measured shall be annotated 'obs. only'.
- 4.8 A standard north point, as specified at Para. 6(1)(h) of this specification, will be shown on all survey record plans.
- 4.9 Survey record plans used for reference shall be shown on the face of the plan.

5. Symbols and abbreviations

5.1 The following symbols shall be used to indicate the type of survey mark placed, found or adopted:-

	New/Adopted	Old mark found
(a) Boundary stone		a
(b) Urban survey mark	©	•
(c) Control survey station (other than (b))	©	®
(d) Permanent survey mark		(A)
(e) All other survey marks	0	

5.2 The following abbreviations shall be used when referring to specific survey marks:-

(a)	Boundary stone	- BS
(b)	Survey nail	- Nail
(c)	Cut mark	- CM
(d)	Iron spike	- IS
(e)	Iron tube	- IT
(f)	Lead plug	- LP
(g)	Wooden peg	- Peg
(h)	Permanent survey mark	- PSM
(i)	Picket box (over any mark)	7- PB
(j)	Urban survey mark	- USM

Additionally all existing survey marks found, with the exception of boundary stones, will be prefixed with an O, for old e.g. OIT.

5.3 Other allowable abbreviations are:-

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(b) Boundary - bdy. (c) Building - bldg. (d) Calculated - calc. (e) Concrete - conc. (f) Observed - obs.	(a)	Adopted	- adpt.
(d) Calculated - calc. (e) Concrete - conc.	(b)	Boundary	- bdy.
(e) Concrete - conc.	(c) (Building	- bldg.
	(d)	Calculated	- calc.
(f) Observed - obs.	(e)	Concrete	
	(f)	Observed	- obs.

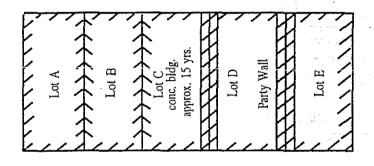
6. Line work and lettering

6.1 Line work on survey record plans shall be standardised as follows:-

	<u>Line</u>	Recommended Gauge	<u>Shown</u>
(a)	Measured and, or, observed lines; and origin of bearings	0.25 mm	
(b)	Adopted or calculated lines and grid lines	0.25 mm	
(c)	Boundary lines, subject lot or parcel	0.7 mm	
(d)	Boundary lines, other than (c) above, sheet joining lines	0.5 mm	

Appendix B (4 of 5)

	<u>Line</u>	Recommended Gauge	<u>Shown</u>
(e)	Road/street alignments	0.5 mm	
(f)	Fences (fence on boundary annotate only)	0.25mm	-1111
(g)	Building or structures (Describe fully - add approximate age)	0.25 mm	(see below)



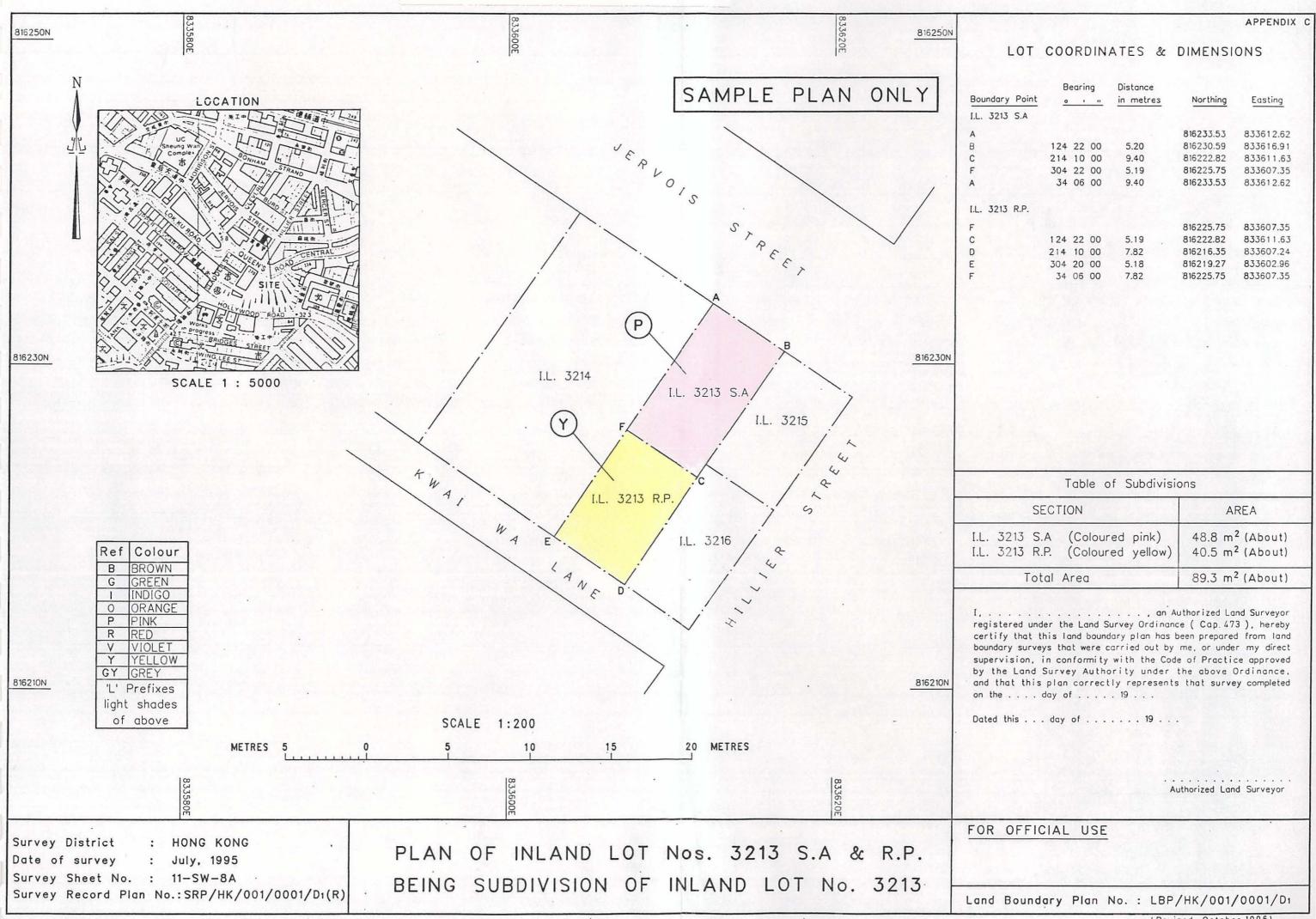
(h) Standard north point symbol 0.5 mm (see below)



6.2 Specifications for lettering and figure work are:

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	<u>Item</u>	Recommended <u>Height</u>	Recommended Gauge
(a)	Descriptions and areas of subject parcels, road names, plan titles, sheet numbers and sheet joining line labels	7 mm	0.7 mm
(b)	Descriptions of abuttals, etc., diagram titles, specific usage names or descriptions, standard data in bottom panels and SRP reference	5 mm	0.5 mm
(c)	All other lettering and figure work	2.5 mm	0.25 mm



(Revised: October 1996)

