

Directing and Certifying Cadastral Surveys

Licensed cadastral surveyors need to be particularly aware of their obligations when certifying a survey which has been partially completed under the direction of another licensed cadastral surveyor.

The Cadastral Survey Guidelines article 'Content of a CSD, survey report information and CSD certification' has a section on [Surveys directed by other surveyors](#). It contains some useful information and a copy of an excellent article originally authored by the Surveyor-General of the time, Don Grant. This is an interesting read and is still relevant to submitting surveyors today.

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[Don Grant
Surveyor-General

The excellent article by Ralph Jorgensen in the September 2008 *Survey Quarterly* 'Certification – Get it right!' is very timely. There have been several recent cases where the certification of cadastral surveys has been questionable – perhaps as a result of misunderstanding by the certifying surveyor. One such area of misunderstanding appears to be over the meaning of the word 'direction' which is used in the Cadastral Survey Act 2002 and the Rules for Cadastral Survey 2002/2 – including the certificate signed for each survey.

Direction of a cadastral survey

Note the following dictionary definitions.

direction n 1. directing, aiming, guiding managing (usu in pl) instruction what to do, order

direct v t 2. control, govern movements of; guide as advisor, principle; order (person) to do, thing to be done; supervise acting etc (of film, play, etc); give orders;
(7th Ed, Concise Oxford Dictionary)

directs a survey but then engages another surveyor experienced in e-survey to capture, lodge and certify the survey into Landonline.

4. A technician-based survey firm that does not have a licensed cadastral surveyor, completes the fieldwork and calculations but then sub-contracts the checking, lodging and certifying activity to a cadastral surveyor outside the firm.
5. A survey is returned on requisition and the original certifying surveyor is unavailable, so another surveyor attends to the requisitions. In order to return the survey to LINZ, they have to re-certify it. This new certification covers the correctness of all of the survey – not just the matters raised in the requisitions.

In all these cases, what does the certifying surveyor need to do, to be able to claim that they directed the entire survey?

Does it matter?

Yes it does matter. Section 47(1) of the Cadastral Survey Act 2002 General duties in relation to cadastral surveys requires a cadastral

Figure 1 Directing and Certifying Cadastral Surveys

Go to [Surveys directed by other surveyors](#) to see an updated version of the full article.