

21 February 2024

To: All Territorial Authorities and Regional Councils

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Requirement to use NZVD2016 for cadastral surveys

New Zealand Vertical Datum (NZVD2016) will be the only official vertical datum to be used for cadastral surveys **from 1 July 2024**.

NZVD2016 is the official vertical datum for New Zealand and is supported by a high-quality network of survey control marks maintained by LINZ.

This national datum is intended to replace various 'local vertical datums' used across the country, including the 13 currently listed in [Schedule 5 of the Cadastral Survey Rules 2021](#). Surveyors will no longer be able to use the local vertical datums for cadastral survey datasets (survey plans) lodged after 30 June 2024.

The exception in [rule 62](#) of the Cadastral Survey Rules 2021 remains. This allows another vertical datum to be retained on a unit title development that is already in existence.

Schedule 5 of the Cadastral Survey Rules 2021 will be amended on 1 July 2024 to require the use of NZVD2016, following the recent promulgation of the [Cadastral Survey Amendment Rules 2023](#).

What this means for you

Cadastral survey datasets that require a vertical datum will increasingly be prepared in terms of NZVD2016, in advance of the deadline.

Please ensure that this change is recognised in your regulatory systems, processes, and requirements as well as your spatial data.

There is a significant risk that levels may be assumed to be in terms of one datum when they are, in fact, on another. This could result in incorrect set outs, or unnecessary concerns about non-compliance with council height limits. I recommend checking for this from now on (if you are not doing so already).

Please pass this notice to your colleagues and teams, including those dealing with resource consenting, cadastral surveys, and spatial data management.

Further information

For further information please refer to the [LINZ website](#) or email sgrulesreview@linz.govt.nz

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Haanen', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Anselm Haanen

Surveyor-General / Kairūri Matua