



MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

February 24, 1977

CIRCULAR LETTER TO ALL BRITISH COLUMBIA LAND SURVEYORS
AND ALL REGISTRARS, LAND REGISTRY OFFICES

Dear Sir:

Re: Land Registry Act Metric Alternatives

A copy of Order in Council #560 of 17 February 1977, authorizing certain metric equivalents on a permissive basis, is attached. There may be no further amendment to the Land Registry Act in the near future on a statute basis, and it is suggested that it is important that these alternatives be noted against the appropriate sections in your copy of the Land Registry Act.

Please note that as far as Section 80(7a) is concerned the last four words "*after the decimal point*" are a definite mistake resulting from overexuberance on the part of an editor. These words should be ignored. The four significant digits are, for example: 0.5678, 5.678, 56.78, 567.8 or 5678 hectares.

Division 4.01 of B.C.Reg. 578/76 - Survey and Plans made in compliance with the Land Registry Act - allows original drawings to be made on "*film with a matte finish.*" The thickness of this film shall be .003" or 3 mils., the same weight as presently authorized for duplicates of tracings.

There should be a statement on every plan prepared with metric dimensions that "*All distances are in metres except where otherwise noted,*" the same as in the example given in the specimen plan attached to B.C.Reg. 577/76 - Land Act Survey Instructions.

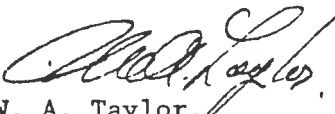
The number of digits, after the decimal point on distances shown in metres, will depend on length of the boundary and in most cases three digits are required on the relatively short distances which are normal. Certainly two digits following the decimal are insufficient in calculations and conversion of prior distances. In relatively long distances where measurement to 1 millimetre may be considered as a delusion the surveyor may have to consider rounding to the nearest half centimetre, which will produce either a zero or a 5 as the third figure. In extremely long distances as for example, 1000 metres, one figure after the decimal would indicate an accuracy of 1 in 10,000 which for many surveys would be adequate. However, most measurements can be made more accurately than that with distance measuring equipment and two figures after the decimal would be realistic.

Operations under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Act will not be converted to metric terms until the whole Petroleum Industry is geared to that change, which is not anticipated before 1978. Therefore wellsite survey plans must continue to be surveyed in feet until the change is announced. Those few surveyors who are engaged in this type of work should obtain a copy of B.C.Reg. 628/76, published in the B. C. Gazette, Part II of Jan. 4, 1977 wherein at Division 20, a few minor changes in plan preparation are detailed. Despite the regulations calling for original plans to be made on tracing linen, the alternative of film with a matte finish will be acceptable.

To be in harmony with the latest reorganization of the Ministry of the Environment, all correspondence dealing with Legal Survey matters should be addressed to the:

Surveyor General,
Legal Surveys Branch,
Ministry of the Environment,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B. C.
V8V 1X5

Yours truly,


W. A. Taylor,
Surveyor General

WAT:mw
Encl.



560

W S O'Brien

Lieutenant-Governor

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VICTORIA 17 FEB. 1977

Pursuant to the Land Registry Act, and upon the recommendation of the undersigned, the Lieutenant-Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, orders that

- (a) the substitution of metric measure for measurement provisions in the Land Registry Act be authorized as indicated in this order, and
- (b) a Registrar shall accept plans of subdivision in either measure.

Section 80 (7a): Delete and substitute:

“On a parcel created with an area of 0.5 ha or more the area shall be shown on the plan and expressed in hectares to 4 significant digits after the decimal point.”

Section 80 (8a): Substitute “1 ha” for “two acres”.

Section 80 (10): Substitute “0.75 m” for “thirty inches”.

Section 80 (12): Delete and substitute:

“(12) The scale of every plan shall be marked on the plan and shall be governed by the following provisions:

- (a) the scale shall be in metres;
- (b) if a parcel shown on the plan is less than 0.5 ha, the plan shall be on a scale not smaller than 1:1 000;
- (c) if a parcel shown on the plan is less than 2 ha, but no parcel is less than 0.5 ha the plan shall be on a scale not smaller than 1:2 500;
- (d) if a parcel shown on the plan is less than 10 ha, but no parcel is less than 2 ha the plan shall be on a scale not smaller than 1:5 000;
- (e) if no parcel shown on the plan is less than 10 ha, the plan shall be on a scale not smaller than 1:5 000.”

Section 96 (b) (iii): Substitute:

- (a) "20 m" for "one chain";
- (b) "200 m" for "six hundred and sixty feet";
- (c) "0.5 ha" for "one acre"; and
- (d) "400 m" for "thirteen hundred and twenty feet".


Section 117 (2): Substitute "kilometres" for "miles".


Section 130 (1): Substitute "900 ha" for "two thousand acres".

Section 259 (2): Substitute "kilometre" for "mile".

Second Schedule (Item 52): Substitute "10¢/400 cm²" for "25 cents a square foot";

(Item 56): Substitute "kilometre" for "mile".

Acting

Allan Williams
Attorney-General


W. R. Bennett
Presiding Member of the Executive Council