

Information Technology Policy

Geospatial Data Metadata Content Standard

Number

STD-SFT004B

Category

Software

Contact

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Effective Date

September 26, 2024

Supersedes

None

Scheduled Review

September 2025

1. Purpose

This standards document establishes metadata standards and protocols for Commonwealth authored geospatial data. This standard supplements [ITP-SFT004, Geospatial Information Systems \(GIS\)](#) detailing broader GIS standards.

2. Background

Metadata is the “data about the data”, providing contextual information necessary to understand a dataset, its limitations, and fitness for use. Metadata can include items such as authoring party, restrictions on use, collection methods, datum and projection information, and other relevant properties needed to understand a dataset. Providing metadata in a standardized manner is essential to ensure the understanding of and effective use of Commonwealth authored geospatial data.

3. Definitions

Geospatial Data: Geospatial data describes objects, events, or other features with a location on or near the surface of the earth. This information typically combines location coordinates, tabular attribute characteristics, and often temporal information. The most common forms of geospatial data are vector, raster, and tabular data with a location reference.

ISO: International Organization for Standardization

Metadata: The “data about the data”, providing contextual information necessary to understand a dataset, its limitations, and fitness for use.

4. Objective

To ensure high quality metadata accompanies all geospatial datasets authored within the Commonwealth through the use of standardized metadata protocols.

5. Standards

All authoritative geospatial data authored by Commonwealth agencies shall incorporate metadata and all metadata shall follow the International Organization on Standardization's ISO 19115 metadata content standard. The [ISO 19115-3 XML Schema Implementation](#) metadata style shall be used by commonwealth agencies for all authoritative geospatial data (both internal and external).

The ISO 19115 is an internationally adopted schema for describing geographic information and services. It provides information about the identification, the extent, the quality, the spatial and temporal schema, spatial reference, and distribution of digital geographic data. In addition, the ISO 19115 metadata content standard is endorsed by the United States Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC).

ISO 19115 is split into parts:

[ISO 19115-1:2014](#) contains the fundamentals of the standard.

[ISO 19115-2:2019](#) contains extensions for imagery and gridded data.

[ISO 19115-3:2023](#) provides an XML schema implementation for the fundamental concepts compatible with ISO/TS 19138:2007 (Geographic Metadata XML, or GMD).

In ArcGIS Online, the metadata style is established by enabling metadata for the organization and selecting a metadata style for the organization (administrator settings).

In ArcGIS Pro, the metadata style is set at the software settings level.

If you are tasked with editing or viewing metadata in an ArcGIS environment, reading one or both of these documents is helpful:

[ArcGIS Online: View and edit metadata](#)

[ArcGIS Pro: View and edit metadata](#)

Additional information on ISO Metadata Standards can be found on the FGDC website: [ISO GEOSPATIAL METADATA STANDARDS](#)

This chart contains a history of this publication's revisions. Redline documents detail the revisions and are available to CWOPA users only.

Version	Date	Purpose of Revision
Original	09/26/2024	Base Document