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FEMA

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Regional Risk Analysis Branch Chiefs

FROM: Doug A. Bellomo
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Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration

SUBJECT: Procedure Memorandum No. 61—Standards for Lidar and Other High Quality Digital Topography

EFFECTIVE DATES: Immediately for all FY10 procured and collected data

Background: Beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) initiated a five-year program for Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP). FEMA's vision for the Risk MAP program is to deliver quality data that increases public awareness and leads to mitigation actions that reduce risk to life and property. To achieve this vision, FEMA will transform its traditional flood identification and mapping efforts into a more integrated process of accurately identifying, assessing, communicating, planning for, and mitigating flood risks.

Under Risk MAP, FEMA seeks to:

- Deliver new data and products that expand risk awareness and promote mitigation planning that leads to risk reduction actions.
- Increase production efficiencies for Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Flood Insurance Studies (FISs).

Issue: To implement FEMA's Risk MAP vision and provide the high quality topographic data necessary to meet Risk MAP's goals, FEMA Regions and Mapping Partners need upgraded guidance concerning the accuracy and processing of high quality topographic data including Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) data. This Procedure Memorandum supersedes Appendix A: Guidance for Aerial Mapping and Surveying of the *Guidelines and Specifications for Flood Hazard Mapping Partners* (Guidelines) in key areas (defined in the Procedure Memorandum Attachments), and must be implemented beginning with all topographic data collected or procured by FEMA in FY 2010.

All policy and standards in this document have been superseded by the FEMA Policy for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping.
However, the document contains useful guidance to support implementation of the new standards.

Actions Taken: When procuring topographic data under the Risk MAP Program, the Mapping Partner assigned to obtain topographic data or perform independent QA of topographic data must meet the specifications detailed in this Procedure Memorandum's attachments. The attachments align FEMA's high quality topographic specifications, found in Appendix A of the Guidelines, with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Lidar Guidelines and Base Specifications* v13 so that data procured and used by the Federal government is consistent across agencies and is updated to industry standards. Further, adherence to these specifications will support the Risk MAP Program by closing gaps in existing flood hazard data; supporting risk assessments; and better communicating risks to community officials and the public.

Existing elevation data, not acquired by FEMA, but planned for use in a new flood hazard analysis for National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulatory products must comply with the accuracy, density and the final product metadata requirements detailed in the attachments, but is not required to comply with the other specifications included and referenced below.

Consistent with FEMA's overall approach to flood hazard identification, this Procedure Memorandum aligns FEMA topographic data specifications to level of risk, and accounts for different slopes in the terrain that can affect the accuracy of base flood elevations and the delineation of mapped floodplains. These specifications represent the minimum requirements. Where involved project is jointly funded by FEMA and external partners or where the engineering requirements dictate, projects may use higher specification levels or include additional processing. Quality assurance requirements for high quality topographic data are also provided.

Attachments:
Attachment 1 – Definitions
Attachment 2 – Alignment of FEMA Appendix A to USGS *Lidar Guidelines and Base Specification* v13
Attachment 3 – Topographic Breakline and Hydro-Enforcement Specifications
Attachment 4 – Topographic Data Quality Review Process

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Attachment 1 – Definitions

1) **Digital Elevation Data –** Includes all of the following terms: mass points, point clouds, breaklines, contours, TINs, DEMs, DTMs or DSMs.

- **Breakline –** A linear feature demarking a change in the smoothness or continuity of a surface such as abrupt elevation changes or a stream line. The two most common forms of breaklines are as follows:
  - A **soft breakline** ensures that known elevations, or z-values, along a linear feature are maintained (e.g., elevations along a pipeline, road centerline or drainage ditch), and ensures the boundary of natural and man-made features on the Earth's surface are appropriately represented in the digital terrain data by use of linear features and polygon edges They are generally synonymous with 3-D breaklines because they are depicted with series of x/y/z coordinates.
  - A **hard breakline** defines interruptions in surface smoothness, e.g., to define streams, shorelines, dams, ridges, building footprints, and other locations with abrupt surface changes. Although some hard breaklines are three dimensional (3-D) breaklines, they are often depicted as two dimensional (2-D) breaklines because features such as shorelines and building footprints are normally depicted with a series of horizontal coordinates only which are often digitized from digital orthophotographs that include no elevation data.

- **Contours –** Lines of equal elevation on a surface. An imaginary line on the ground, all points of which are at the same elevation above or below a specified vertical datum.

- **Digital Elevation Model (DEM) –** An elevation model created for use in computer software where bare-earth elevation values have regularly spaced intervals in latitude and longitude (x and y). The Δx and Δy values are normally measured in feet or meters to even units; however, the National Elevation Dataset (NED) defines the spacing interval in terms of arc-seconds of latitude and longitude, e.g., 1/3rd arc-second.

- **Digital Surface Model (DSM) –** An elevation model created for use in computer software that is similar to DEMs or DTMs except that DSMs depict the elevations of the top surfaces of buildings, trees, towers, and other features elevated above the bare earth.

- **Digital Terrain Model (DTM) –** An elevation model created for use in computer software of bare-earth mass points and breaklines. DTMs are technically superior to a gridded DEM for many applications because distinctive terrain features are more clearly defined and precisely located, and contours generated from DTMs more closely approximate the real shape of the terrain.

- **Mass Points –** Irregularly spaced points, each with latitude and longitude location coordinates and elevation values typically used to form a TIN.

- **Metadata –** Project descriptive information about the elevation dataset.

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- **Point Cloud –** Often referred to as the "raw point cloud", this is the first data product of a lidar instrument. In its crudest form, a lidar raw point cloud is a collection of range measurements and sensor orientation parameters. After initial processing, the range and orientation of each laser value is converted to a position in a three dimensional frame of reference and this spatially coherent cloud of points is the base for further processing and analysis. The raw point cloud typically includes first, last, and intermediate returns for each laser pulse. In addition to spatial information, lidar intensity returns provide texture or color information. The combination of three dimensional spatial information and spectral information contained in the lidar dataset allows great flexibility for data manipulation and extraction. As used in this procedure memorandum, two additional lidar data processing terms are defined as follows:
    - **Lidar Preliminary Processing –** The initial processing and analysis of laser data to fully "calibrated point clouds" in some specified tile format. All lidar data will be set to American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) LAS Class 1 (unclassified) and must include testing for Fundamental Vertical Accuracy (FVA). The tile format can change later, if necessary.
    - **Lidar Post-Processing –** The final processing and classification of lidar data to the required ASPRS LAS classes, per project specifications. This must include testing for Consolidated Vertical Accuracy (CVA). At this point, the datasets are referred to as the "classified point cloud."

- **Triangulated Irregular Network (TIN) –** A set of adjacent, non-overlapping triangles computed from irregularly-spaced points with lattitude, longitude, and elevation values. The TIN data structure is based on irregularly-spaced point, line, and polygon data interpreted as mass points and breaklines and stores the topological relationship between triangles and their adjacent neighbors. The TIN model may be preferable to a DEM when it is critical to preserve the precise location of narrow or small features, such as levees, ditch or stream centerlines, isolated peaks or pits in the data model.

- **Z-Values –** The elevations of the 3-D surface above the vertical datum at designated x/y locations.

2) **Geospatial Accuracy Standard –** A common accuracy testing and reporting methodology that facilitates sharing and interoperability of geospatial data. Published in 1998, the National Standard for Spatial Data Accuracy (NSSDA) is the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) standard relevant to digital elevation data when assuming that errors follow a normal error distribution. However, after it was learned that lidar datasets do not necessarily follow a normal distribution in vegetated terrain, the National Digital Elevation Program (NDEP) published its "Guidelines for Digital Elevation Data" and the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) published the "ASPRS Guidelines: Vertical Accuracy Reporting for Lidar Data," both of which were published in 2004 and use newer terms defined below as Fundamental Vertical Accuracy (FVA), Supplemental Vertical Accuracy (SVA) and Consolidated Vertical Accuracy (CVA). All of these standards, designed for digital elevation data, replace the National Map Accuracy Standard (NMAS) that is applicable only to graphic maps defined by map scale and contour interval.

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3) **Accuracy –** The closeness of an estimated value (e.g., measured or computed) to a standard or accepted (true) value of a particular quantity. Note: With the exception of GPS Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS), assumed to be known with zero errors relative to established datums, the true locations of 3-D spatial coordinates or other points are not known, but only estimated. Therefore, the accuracy of other coordinate information is unknown and can only be estimated. Other accuracy definitions are as follows.

- **Absolute Accuracy –** A measure that accounts for all systematic and random errors in a data set. Absolute accuracy is stated with respect to a defied datum or reference system.

- **Accuracy_r –** The NSSDA reporting standard in the horizontal component that equals the radius of a circle of uncertainty, such that the true or theoretical horizontal location of the point falls within that circle 95-percent of the time. $\text{Accuracy}_r = 1.7308 \times \text{RMSE}_r$. Horizontal accuracy is defined as the positional accuracy of a dataset with respect to a horizontal datum.

- **Accuracy_z —** The NSSDA reporting standard in the vertical component that equals the linear uncertainty value, such that the true or theoretical vertical location of the point falls within that linear uncertainty value 95-percent of the time. $\text{Accuracy}_z = 1.9600 \times \text{RMSE}_z$. Vertical accuracy is defined as the positional accuracy of a dataset with respect to a vertical datum.

- **Consolidated Vertical Accuracy (CVA) –** The result of a test of the accuracy of vertical checkpoints (z-values) consolidated for two or more of the major land cover categories, representing both open terrain and other land cover categories. Computed by using the 95th percentile, CVA is always accompanied by Fundamental Vertical Accuracy (FVA).

- **Fundamental Vertical Accuracy (FVA) –** The value by which vertical accuracy can be equitably assessed and compared among datasets. The FVA is determined with vertical checkpoints located only in open terrain, where there is a very high probability that the sensor will have detected the ground surface. FVA is calculated at the 95% confidence level in open terrain only, using $\text{RMSE}_z \times 1.9600$,

- **Local Accuracy –** A value that represents the uncertainty in the coordinates of a control point relative to the coordinates of other directly-connected, adjacent control points at the 95-percent confidence level. The reported local accuracy is an approximate average of the individual local accuracy values between this control point and other observed control points used to establish the coordinates of the control point.

- **Network Accuracy –** A value that represents the uncertainty in the coordinates of a control point with respect to the geodetic datum at the 95-percent confidence level. For National Spatial Reference System (NSRS) network accuracy classification in the U.S., the datum is considered to be best expressed by the geodetic values at the CORS supported by the National Geodetic Survey (NGS). By this definition, the local and network accuracy values at CORS sites are considered to be infinitesimal, i.e., to approach zero.

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- **Percentile –** Any of the values in a dataset of errors dividing the distribution of the individual errors in the dataset into one hundred groups of equal frequency. Any of those groups can specify a specific percentile, e.g., the 95th percentile as defined below.

- **Precision –** A statistical measure of the tendency of a set of random numbers to cluster about a number determined by the dataset. *Precision* relates to the quality of the method by which the measurements were made and is distinguished from *accuracy* which relates to the quality of the result. The term "precision" not only applies to the fidelity with which required operations are performed, but, by custom, has been applied to methods and instruments employed in obtaining results of a high order of precision. Precision is exemplified by the number of decimal places to which a computation is carried and a result stated.

- **Positional Accuracy** – The accuracy of the position of features, including horizontal and/or vertical positions.

- **Relative Accuracy** – A measure that accounts for random errors in a data set. Relative accuracy may also be referred to as point-to-point accuracy. The general measure of relative accuracy is an evaluation of the random errors (systematic errors and blunders removed) in determining the positional orientation (e.g., distance, azimuth) of one point or feature with respect to another.

- **Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) –** The square root of the average of the set of squared differences between dataset coordinate values and coordinate values from an independent source of higher accuracy for identical points. The vertical RMSE ($RMSE_z$), for example, is calculated as the square root of $\sum(Z_n - Z'_n)^2/N$, where:
  - Z_n is the set of N z-values (elevations) being evaluated, normally interpolated (for TINs and DEMs) from dataset elevations of points surrounding the x/y coordinates of checkpoints
  - Z'_n is the corresponding set of checkpoint elevations for the points being evaluated
  - N is the number of checkpoints
  - n is the identification number of each of the checkpoints from 1 through N.

- **Supplemental Vertical Accuracy (SVA) –** The result of a test of the accuracy of z-values over areas with ground cover categories or combination of categories other than open terrain. Computed by using the 95th percentile, SVA is always accompanied by Fundamental Vertical Accuracy (FVA). SVA values are computed individually for different land cover categories. Each land cover type representing 10% of more of the total project area is typically tested and reported as an SVA. SVA specifications are normally target values that may be exceeded so long as overall CVA requirements are satisfied.

- **95% Confidence Level** – Accuracy reported at the 95% confidence level means that 95% of the positions in the dataset will have an error with respect to true ground position that is equal to or smaller than the reported accuracy value. The reported accuracy value reflects all uncertainties, including those introduced by geodetic control coordinates, compilation, and

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final computation of ground coordinate values in the product. Where errors follow a normal error distribution, $Accuracy_z$ defines vertical accuracy at the 95% confidence level (computed as $RMSE_z$ x 1.9600), and $Accuracy_r$ defines horizontal (radial) accuracy at the 95% confidence level (computed as $RMSE_r$ x 1.7308).

- **95th Percentile –** Accuracy reported at the 95th percentile indicates that 95% of the errors will be of equal or lesser value and 5% of the errors will be of larger value. This term is used when errors may not follow a normal error distribution, e.g., in forested areas where the classification of bare-earth elevations may have a positive bias. Vertical accuracy at the 95% confidence level and 95th percentile may be compared to evaluate the degree to which actual errors approach a normal error distribution.

4) **Resolution –** In the context of elevation data, resolution is synonymous with the horizontal density of elevation data points for which two similar terms are used:

- **Nominal Pulse Spacing (NPS)** – The estimated average spacing of irregularly-spaced lidar points in both the along-track and cross-track directions resulting from: the laser pulse repetition frequency (e.g., 100,000 pulses of laser energy emitted in one second from a 100 kHz sensor); scan rate (sometimes viewed as the number of zigzags per second for this common scanning pattern); field-of-view; and flight airspeed. Lidar system developers currently provide "design NPS" as part of the design pulse density, although the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) is currently developing standard procedures to compute the "empirical NPS" which should be approximately the same as the "design NPS" when accepting statistically insignificant loss of returns and disregarding void areas, from water for example. The NPS assessment is made against single swath first return data located within the geometrically usable center portion (typically ~90%) of each swath. Average along-track and cross-track pulse spacing should be comparable. When point density is increased by relying on overlap or double-coverage it should be documented in metadata and not by changing the project's reported NPS. The NPS should be equal to or less than the Digital Elevation Model (DEM) post spacing when gridded DEMs are required as part of project specifications. This same definition for NPS could similarly apply to irregularly-spaced mass points from photogrammetry or Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (IFSAR) data. NPS pertains to lidar only and is not intended to pertain to photogrammetry or IFSAR.

- **DEM Post Spacing –** Sometimes confused with Nominal Pulse Spacing, the DEM Post Spacing is defined as the constant sampling interval in x- and y-directions of a DEM lattice or grid. This is also called the horizontal resolution of a gridded DEM or the DEM grid spacing. It is standard industry practice to have:

  - 1-meter DEM post spacing for elevation data with 1-foot equivalent contour accuracy;
  - 2-meter DEM post spacing for elevation data with 2-foot equivalent contour accuracy;
  - 5-meter DEM post spacing for elevation data with 5-foot equivalent contour accuracy.

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Attachment 2 – Alignment of FEMA Appendix A to USGS Lidar Specification v13

FEMA is aligning Appendix A of the *Guidelines and Specifications for Flood Hazard Mapping Partners* (Guidelines) to the USGS *Lidar Guidelines and Base Specification* v13 to modernize the FEMA specifications to current industry practice, leverage the expertise of the USGS Geography discipline, maintain Federal standards across agencies, and support the use of elevation products acquired as part of Risk MAP by other agencies for other purposes thus maximizing the Government's investment.

Overall, new elevation data purchased by FEMA must comply with the USGS *Lidar Guidelines and Base Specification* v13, except where specifically noted in this Procedure Memorandum.

Because FEMA's needs for elevation data are specific to NFIP floodplain mapping, FEMA has some unique requirements that differ from the USGS specifications. To supplement the existing USGS specifications, FEMA-specific items such as cross section surveys, bridges, and other features in Appendix A of the Guidelines remain valid except where superseded by more current information provided in this attachment. Table 1 summarizes the sections in Appendix A that are fully superseded, partially superseded or not superseded by this Procedure Memorandum.

Table 2.1 Currency of Major Sections within FEMA's Appendix A: Guidance for Aerial Mapping and Surveying

Section	Name	Status
A.1	Introduction	Is not superseded and remains valid.
A.2	Industry Geospatial Standards	Remains valid but is appended by additional standards which use newer standards from the National Digital Elevation Program (NDEP) and American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) to test elevation data for Fundamental Vertical Accuracy (FVA), Supplemental Vertical Accuracy (SVA), and Consolidated Vertical Accuracy (CVA).
A.3	Accuracy Guidelines	Partly superseded, especially Table 2, below, that specifies variable vertical accuracy standards and nominal pulse spacing (NPS), depending on the risk level and terrain slope within the floodplain being mapped.
A.4	Data Requirements	Major portions are superseded. Subsection A.4.2.3 pertaining to breaklines, subsection A.4.3 pertaining to elevation data vertical accuracy, and subsection A.4.5 pertaining to mapping area, are superseded. Subsection A.4.11 pertaining to other digital topographic data requirements, including Table A-3, Digital Topographic Data Requirements Checklist, is now superseded by other FEMA procurement guidelines. Subsection A.4.9 on data formats is partially superseded by the addition of lidar LAS formatted datasets. Subsections pertaining to cross sections (A.4.6) and hydraulic structures (A.4.7) remain valid.
A.5	Ground Control	Is not superseded and remains valid.
A.6	Ground Surveys	Is not superseded and remains valid.

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Section	Name	Status
A.7	Photogrammetric Surveys	Remains valid but is appended by additional standards which require low confidence areas to be delineated for photogrammetry as well as lidar and interferometric synthetic aperture radar (IFSAR). The vast majority of section A.7 remains valid and unchanged.
A.8	Airborne LiDAR	Superseded with references the USGS *Lidar Guidelines and Base Specification* v13; and by NDEP and ASPRS guidelines for accuracy testing and reporting of lidar data.

2.1 Elevation Specifications Based on Risk Levels

FEMA maintains a national dataset that estimates flood risk. The data is calculated at the Census Block Group level, and is also aggregated to the sub-watershed, watershed and county levels. These data assign a risk value and a risk rank to each area. The areas are grouped into 10 classes with an equal number of members based on risk rank. These 10 classes are called risk deciles.

The table below provides the minimum elevation standards for new engineering analyses produced by FEMA. The highest and high specifications are suitable for all types of engineering analyses. The medium and low specifications are suitable for deciles and terrain as outlined in table below. Careful consideration and balance among cost, need, risk, and vertical accuracy is important. Where more than 20% of the project area covered by the new elevation will have enhanced engineering analyses, the next higher elevation specification level may be appropriate. When the scope of the enhanced engineering analyses is not sufficient to justify increasing the overall project specification level, the bulk elevation data collection may be enhanced by field survey in areas of enhanced engineering analyses if necessary.

Table 2.2. Vertical Accuracy Requirements based on Flood Risk and Terrain Slope within the Floodplain being mapped

Level of Flood Risk	Typical Slopes	Specification Level	Vertical Accuracy, 95% Confidence Level FVA/CVA	Lidar Nominal Pulse Spacing (NPS)
High (Deciles 1,2,3)	Flattest	Highest	24.5 cm/36.3 cm	≤1 meter
High (Deciles 1,2,3)	Rolling or Hilly	High	49.0 cm/72.6 cm	≤2 meters
High (Deciles 2,3,4,5)	Hilly	Medium	98.0 cm/145 cm	≤3.5 meters
Medium (Deciles 3,4,5,6,7)	Flattest	High	49.0 cm/72.6 cm	≤2 meters
Medium (Deciles 3,4,5,6,7)	Rolling	Medium	98.0 cm/145 cm	≤3.5 meters

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Medium (Deciles 4,5,6,7)	Hilly	Low	147 cm/218 cm	≤5 meters
Low (Deciles 7,8,9,10)	All	Low	147 cm/218 cm	≤5 meters

Whereas contour lines are for visual interpretation and are unnecessary for FEMA's automated hydrologic and hydraulic analyses, the term "equivalent contour accuracy" is used to show the accuracy of contour lines that could be produced from a DEM if needed for manual analysis; this is also for the benefit of those who do not understand NSSDA terminology that defines vertical accuracy at the 95% confidence level. Table 3 explains "equivalent contour accuracy" for various standard contour intervals, referenced also in terms of vertical root mean square error ($RMSE_z$), National Standard for Spatial Data Accuracy (NSSDA) $Accuracy_z$, SVA and CVA.

Table 2.3. Accuracy Terms that Equal "Equivalent Contour Accuracy"

Equivalent Contour Accuracy	FEMA Specification Level	$RMSE_z$	NSSDA $Accuracy_z$ 95% confidence level	SVA (target)	CVA (mandatory)
1 ft		0.30 ft or 9.25 cm	0.60 ft or18.2 cm	0.60 ft or18.2 cm	0.60 ft or18.2 cm
2 ft	Highest	0.61 ft or 18.5 cm	1.19 ft or 36.3 cm	1.19 ft or 36.3 cm	1.19 ft or 36.3 cm
4 ft	High	1.22 ft or 37.1 cm	2.38 ft or 72.6 cm	2.38 ft or 72.6 cm	2.38 ft or 72.6 cm
5 ft		1.52 ft or 46.3 cm	2.98 ft or 90.8 cm	2.98 ft or 90.8 cm	2.98 ft or 90.8 cm
8 ft	Medium	2.43 ft or 73.9 cm	4.77 ft or 1.45 m	4.77 ft or 1.45 m	4.77 ft or 1.45 m
10 ft		3.04 ft or 92.7 cm	5.96 ft or1.82 m	5.96 ft or1.82 m	5.96 ft or1.82 m
12 ft	Low	3.65 ft or 1.11m	7.15 ft or 2.18 m	7.15 ft or 2.18 m	7.15 ft or 2.18 m

FEMA's requirements for elevation data are specific to flood risk analysis. As a result, FEMA's requirements diverge from the USGS specification which is intended to serve a different purpose. Two of the key differences with the FEMA specifications are the requirements for vertical accuracy and nominal pulse spacing. The FEMA requirements in these areas are only similar to the USGS requirements in the highest specification level, but otherwise differ for the lower accuracy levels.

All data collected must go through lidar preliminary processing and the unclassified point cloud must be tested as specified in the USGS specification. Where the Mapping Activity Statement (MAS) requires bare earth post-processing of the floodplain area of interest (AOI), the elevation data must be tested and comply with both the FVA and CVA requirements. Where no bare earth post-processing is specified, only the FVA requirements apply for lidar preliminary processing.

Many other organizations require higher-accuracy lidar data for diverse applications and combine their resources to solve multiple needs with lidar. FEMA prefers to acquire elevation data through partnerships so that the resulting data will meet a broader variety of end user needs and be more consistent with the overall USGS specification. These partnership elevation collection activities will frequently utilize specifications that exceed the minimums described above in Table 2. Before committing funds to a new elevation mapping project, FEMA Regional staff should first determine whether funds could be spent more effectively by cooperating with

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other agencies to more cost-effectively acquire elevation data. FEMA is a member of the National Digital Elevation Program (NDEP) which was formed, in part, to avoid duplication of effort among state and federal government agencies acquiring digital elevation data. USGS maintains state geospatial liaisons that are a good source of information regarding the status of existing and/or planned mapping activities in their states.

2.2 Light Detection and Ranging (lidar)

Lidar is capable of delivering 1-foot equivalent contour accuracy with sub-meter NPS used to produce DEMs with 1-meter DEM gridded post spacing. Therefore, lidar could satisfy FEMA's requirements for elevation data in high risk, moderate risk, and low risk areas. Lidar is often the best technology for mapping the elevations of the bare earth terrain in dense vegetation.

If this technology is selected for high risk areas, lidar will be collected in accordance with the USGS *Lidar Guidelines and Base Specification*, v13, for the National Geospatial Program except as noted. FEMA does not require the data to be hydro-flattened, as specified in v13. Also, FEMA does not require all data to be processed to the bare earth terrain, but instead limits the area to be processed to areas in the vicinity of floodplains that will require hydraulic modeling. See FEMA's Procurement Guidelines for specifics on this topic.

The following USGS specifications are most relevant to FEMA and are consistent with FEMA requirements:

- Fundamental Vertical Accuracy (FVA) pertains only to open, non-vegetated terrain. The FVA is specified at a higher level of accuracy than other land cover categories. The FVA is a mandatory specification that must be satisfied in order to be usable by FEMA for flood risk mapping within the specified level of flood risk.
- Supplemental Vertical Accuracy (SVA) pertains to other major land cover categories representative of the floodplain being mapped. SVA values are target values, where one SVA category can test higher and another lower than the target SVA value so long as the overall CVA is satisfied for the consolidated equivalent contour accuracy.
- Consolidated Vertical Accuracy (CVA) pertains to all land cover categories combined. Compliance with the CVA specification is mandatory in order for an elevation dataset to qualify for satisfaction of a specified equivalent contour accuracy.
- For the highest specification level equivalent to 2 foot contour accuracy, the relative accuracy should be $\leq$ 7 cm $RMSE_z$ within individual swaths; $\leq$ 10 cm $RMSE_z$ within swath overlap (between adjacent swaths). These relative accuracy specifications double to 14 and 20 cm, respectively, for risk areas that utilize the high elevation specification with 4 foot equivalent contour accuracy. This specification is not applicable to lower risk areas.
- Consistent with USGS *Lidar Guidelines and Base Specification*, v13, a regular grid, with cell size equal to the design NPS*2 will be laid over the first return data within the geometrically usable center portion of each swath. At least 90% of the cells in the grid shall contain at least one lidar point.

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- All data collected will be delivered consistent with the USGS Raw Point Cloud deliverable requirements.
- Where lidar post-processing is performed, the deliverables must also include the classified point cloud deliverable. The data will be delivered in full compliance with LAS classes 1 (processed, but unclassified), 2 (bare-earth ground), 7 (noise), 9 (water), 10 (ignored), and 11 (withheld). All points not identified as "withheld" are to be classified. "Overlap" classification (Class 12) shall not be used.
- The horizontal datum shall be referenced to the latest adjustment of the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83 [NSRS2007]).
- The vertical datum shall be referenced to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) whenever available. Areas outside of the continental U.S. where NAVD88 is not available should be referenced to a reproducible local datum that can be used to support floodplain management.
- The most recent approved Geoid model from the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) shall be used to perform conversions from ellipsoidal heights to orthometric heights.
- The standard coordinate reference system and units shall be Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM), meters. Considerations for other standard coordinate systems such as State Plane can be made for projects which are contributed to by mapping partners.
- The single non-overlapped tiling scheme shall be established and agreed upon by the data producer and FEMA prior to collection, consistent with the USGS *Lidar Guidelines and Base Specifications*, v13.
- Specifications for breaklines and hydro-enforcement are addressed in Attachment B.
- Specifications for lidar accuracy testing by land cover categories within the floodplain being mapped are addressed in Attachment C.

Lidar dataset deliverables shall include the following:

1. Metadata should comply with the requirements in the USGS *Lidar Guidelines and Base Specification*, v13. The QA/QC report provided must include the vertical accuracy calculations as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. In addition, the finished elevation product for hydraulic modeling should be documented by a FGDC-compliant metadata file that complies with the FEMA Elevation Metadata Profile. Project documentation must also include a Pre-flight Operations Plan and Post-flight Aerial Survey and Calibration Report as described in Attachment 4.
2. Raw point cloud data shall comply with the requirements in the USGS Lidar Guidelines and Base Specification, v13.
3. Classified point cloud data shall comply with requirements in the USGS Lidar Guidelines and Base Specification, v13.
4. Optional breaklines, when produced, shall be delivered in compliance with guidance in Attachment 3

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5. Optional digital bare earth elevation data product(s) (e.g., DEM, DTM, contours) in file formats specified in the Statement of Work.

2.3 Photogrammetry

Photogrammetry is also capable of delivering 1-foot equivalent contour accuracy and a DEM with 1-meter post spacing. Therefore, photogrammetry could also satisfy FEMA's requirements for elevation data in high risk, moderate risk, and low risk areas. Except for the new requirement to delineate areas of low confidence, existing guidance published in section A.7, Photogrammetric Surveys, in Appendix A of FEMA's Guidelines, remain current for new aerial image acquisition with either film or digital cameras.

The USGS annually contracts for leaf-off orthoimagery of selected areas under the National Geospatial Program, typically producing digital orthophotographs with pixel resolution of 30 cm (~1 foot) or 15 cm (~6 inches), as do many states and local governments; and the USDA contracts for leaf-on orthoimagery of major areas of the U.S. annually under the National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP) with pixel resolution of 1 meter. Although intended for production of digital orthophotos, those same images could be reused for production of digital elevation data because the aerotriangulation (AT) solution for production of orthophotos can be reused for establishing stereo models from which DEMs can be produced by photogrammetric auto-correlation and/or manual compilation. Elevation accuracies typically achievable by reuse of digital imagery and AT metrics are as follows:

- Typically acquired at an elevation of approximately 4,800 feet above mean terrain, imagery and AT solutions used to produce digital orthophotos with 6-inch pixel resolution should be acceptable for elevation data with 2.5-foot equivalent contour accuracy
- Typically acquired at an elevation of approximately 9,600 feet above mean terrain, imagery and AT solutions used to produce digital orthophotos with 1-foot pixel resolution should be acceptable for elevation data with 5-foot equivalent contour accuracy
- Typically acquired at an elevation of approximately 30,000 feet above mean terrain, imagery and AT solutions used to produce digital orthophotos with 1-meter pixel resolution should be acceptable for elevation data with 15-foot equivalent contour accuracy.

Photogrammetric dataset deliverables shall include the following:

1. Metadata:
    - Collection Report detailing mission planning and flight logs, flying heights, camera parameters, forward overlap and sidelap.
    - Survey Report detailing the collection of control and reference points used for calibration and QA/QC.

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- Aerial triangulation (AT) report detailing compliance with relevant accuracy statistics.
- Processing Report detailing photogrammetric processed used to manually compile elevation data or to semi-automatically compile elevation data with automated image correlation or other techniques.
- QA/QC reports.
- Geo-referenced extents of each delivered dataset.

2. Digital bare earth elevation data product (DEM, DTM, mass points, breaklines, contours) specified in the Statement of Work.
3. Optional breaklines, when produced, shall be delivered in compliance with guidance in Attachment 3

2.4 Ground Surveys

All ground surveys must be performed in accordance with procedures in Section A.5, Ground Control, and Section A.6, Ground Surveys, in Appendix A of FEMA's Guidelines. Cross-section surveys and hydraulic structure surveys shall also be performed in accordance with sections A.4.6 and A.4.7, respectively, of Appendix A.

2.5 Low Confidence Areas

Regardless of the technology used, FEMA requires that low confidence areas be delineated by the data provider to indicate areas where the vertical data may not meet the data accuracy requirements due to heavy vegetation even though the specified nominal pulse spacing was met or exceeded in those areas. The metadata must include an explanation of steps taken to minimize the areas delineated as low confidence areas. Accuracy test points are normally retained within such areas and are not discarded. The data provider must take reasonable steps to minimize areas delineated as low confidence areas, taking into consideration the density of the vegetation in the floodplain being mapped and other factors.

These low confidence areas must be delivered as polygons in accordance with a database schema. The database schema for polygons defining low confidence areas is as follows.

Feature Dataset: TOPOGRAPHIC
Feature Class: CONFIDENCE
Feature Type: Polygon
Contains M Values: No
Contains Z Values: No
Annotation Subclass: None
XY Resolution: Accept Default Setting
Z Resolution: Accept Default Setting
XY Tolerance: 0.003
Z Tolerance: N/A

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2.5.1 Description

This polygon feature class will depict areas where the ground is obscured by dense vegetation, meaning that the resultant bare-earth digital terrain model (DTM) may not meet the required accuracy specifications in these obscured areas. Low confidence areas can pertain to lidar, photogrammetry or IFSAR.

2.5.2 Table Definition

Field Name	Data Type	Allow Null Values	Default Value	Domain	Precision	Scale	Length	Responsibility
OBJECTID	Object ID							Assigned by Software
SHAPE	Geometry							Assigned by Software
DATESTAMP_DT	Date	Yes			0	0	8	Assigned by Contractor
SHAPE_LENGTH	Double	Yes			0	0		Calculated by Contractor
SHAPE_AREA	Double	Yes			0	0		Calculated by Contractor
TYPE	Long Integer	No	1	Obscure	0	0		Assigned by Contractor

2.5.3 Feature Definition

Code	Description	Definition	Capture Rules
1	Low Confidence Area	"Low confidence areas" are defined by the data provider to indicate areas where the vertical data may not meet the data accuracy requirements due to heavy vegetation even though the nominal pulse spacing was met or exceeded in those areas.	Capture as closed polygon. Compiler does not need t z-values of vertices; feature class will be 2-D only.

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Attachment 3 – Topographic Breakline and Hydro-Enforcement Specifications

FEMA has no minimum breakline requirements; breaklines are optional and depend upon the procedures used to perform hydrologic and hydraulic modeling. The FEMA Project Manager should specify the breaklines requirements if desired based on the planned approach for hydraulic analysis or the mapping partner may propose breakline requirements based on the anticipated hydraulic modeling approach.

When optional breaklines are produced, the following breakline topology rules must be followed for the applicable feature classes. The topology must be validated by each contractor prior to delivery to FEMA.

Name: BREAKLINES_Topology			Cluster Tolerance: 0.003 Maximum Generated Error Count: Undefined State: Analyzed without errors	
Feature Class	**Weight**	**XY Rank**	**Z Rank**	**Event Notification**
COASTALSHORELINE	5	1	1	No
HYDROGRAPHICFEATURE	5	1	1	No
PONDS_AND_LAKES	5	1	1	No
HYDRAULICSTRUCTURE	5	1	1	No
ISLAND	5	1	1	No

Topology Rules

Name	Rule Type	Trigger Event	Orgin (FeatureClass::Subtype)	Destination (FeatureClass::Subtype)
Must not intersect	The rule is a line-no intersection rule	No	HYDRAULICSTRUCTURE::All	HYDRAULICSTRUCTURE::All
Must not intersect	The rule is a line-no intersection rule	No	HYDROGRAPHICFEATURE::All	HYDROGRAPHICFEATURE::All
Must not intersect	The rule is a line-no intersection rule	No	COASTALSHORELINE::All	COASTALSHORELINE::All
Must not intersect	The rule is a line-no intersection rule	No	PONDS_AND_LAKES::All	PONDS_AND_LAKES::All
Must not intersect	The rule is a line-no intersection rule	No	ISLAND::All	ISLAND::All
Must not overlap	The rule is a line-no overlap line rule	No	HYDROGRAPHICFEATURE::All	COASTALSHORELINE::All
Must not self-intersect	The rule is a line-no self intersect rule	No	HYDRAULICSTRUCTURE::All	HYDRAULICSTRUCTURE::All
Must not self-intersect	The rule is a line-no self intersect rule	No	HYDROGRAPHICFEATURE::All	HYDROGRAPHICFEATURE::All
Must not self-intersect	The rule is a line-no self intersect rule	No	COASTALSHORELINE::All	COASTALSHORELINE::All

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Name	Rule Type	Trigger Event	Orgin (FeatureClass::Subtype)	Destination (FeatureClass::Subtype)
Must not self-intersect	The rule is a line-no self intersect rule	No	PONDS_AND_LAKES::All	PONDS_AND_LAKES::All
Must not self-intersect	The rule is a line-no self intersect rule	No	ISLAND::All	ISLAND::All

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Attachment 4 – Topographic Data Quality Review and Reporting Process

To complement the topographic data specifications in this procedure memorandum, this attachment describes data quality review processes and reporting obligations to be performed on new topographic data procured by FEMA as part of a flood hazard study or Risk MAP project. The mapping partner responsible for producing the elevation data is responsible for the quality of the product. In addition, FEMA may assign another mapping partner to perform Independent QA/QC of Topographic Data

Existing topographic data leveraged by FEMA should be certified to meet or tested for the vertical accuracy requirements specified in this procedure memo. In addition, the quality reviews described here are best practices that may be applied to existing topographic data. However, some of the documentation needed to perform some of these reviews may not be readily available for existing data.

4.1 Quality Reviews and Reporting Performed by Data Provider

The mapping partner responsible for producing new elevation data must submit copies of QA reports as specified in USGS Lidar Guidelines and Base Specification version 13. Unless the responsibility for checkpoint surveys and vertical accuracy testing is specifically assigned to a different mapping partner performing Independent QA/QC, the mapping partner responsible for producing the elevation data must test the unclassified point cloud data for Fundamental Vertical Accuracy (FVA) and, when lidar post-processing is performed must also test the bare earth product for Supplemental Vertical Accuracy (SVA) and Consolidated Vertical Accuracy (CVA).

4.1.1 Ground Survey of Quality Review Checkpoints

Quality review checkpoint surveys shall be performed in accordance with procedures in Section A.6.4, Checkpoint Surveys and A.6.5 Survey Records, in Appendix A of FEMA's Guidelines.

Checkpoints surveyed for accuracy reporting shall not be used by the data provider in the calibration or adjustment of the topographic data.

4.1.2 Assessment of Initial Vertical Accuracy

Assessment of the fully calibrated, raw point cloud initial vertical accuracy is required to ensure data has successfully completed preliminary processing. The absolute and relative accuracy of the data, relative to known control, shall be verified prior to classification and subsequent product development , by calculating FVA, measured in open, non-vegetated terrain. The spatial distribution of checkpoints for FVA testing should be based on the entire project collection area, distributed to avoid clustering, and support vertical accuracy reporting that is representative of the whole project.

If the project area exceeds 2,000 square miles it must be divided into smaller blocks of 2,000 square miles or less and tested as individual areas. In addition, the division of large project areas should apply the following rules if applicable:

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- Divide areas by vendor used
- Divide areas by sensor type (manufacturer)
- Divide areas by flight dates if significant temporal difference is present
- Other logical project divisions based factors that might have a systematic relationships to data quality.

Reporting of positional accuracy shall be in accordance with ASPRS/NDEP standards as well as the USGS *Lidar Guidelines and Base Specification*, v13, Section II.13 and shall use the following statement:

Tested ____ (meters) fundamental vertical accuracy at 95% confidence level

Reporting on the assessment of the point cloud initial vertical accuracy shall include the following at a minimum:

- ***A description of the process used to test the points***
- A graphic depicting the spatial distribution of the ground survey checkpoints
- Descriptive statistics and RMSEz in FVA calculations

4.1.3 Assessment of Bare Earth Vertical Accuracy

When bare earth post-processing is included in the project, assessment of the vertical accuracy for the delivered bare earth elevation product is required to ensure data has successfully completed post processing. Reporting of positional accuracy shall be in accordance with ASPRS/NDEP standards for FVA and CVA. Testing should be performed on the bare earth deliverable as specified in the mapping activity statement, along with the following guidance:

- If an assessment of initial vertical accuracy (FVA) was conducted prior to the processing of the data (section 4.1.2), the FVA checkpoints can again be used in the CVA computations if located within the area to be processed
- The SVA for up to three significant land cover categories, in terms of percentage of the project area covered, shall be tested in addition to the open/bare ground areas already tested for FVA Land cover categories making up 10% or more of the project area should be included in the SVA testing
- For smaller projects less than 1,000 square miles, fewer check points for SVA testing is acceptable. The number of checkpoints shall be reduced to control the QA cost to about 10% of the acquisition and processing cost. The checkpoints should be distributed evenly across the SVA land cover types.
- Processing areas greater than 2,000 square miles must be divided into smaller blocks of 2,000 square miles or less and tested as individual areas. In addition, the division of large processing areas should apply the following rules if applicable:

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- Divide areas by vendor used
- Divide areas by sensor type (manufacturer)
- Divide areas by flight dates if significant temporal difference is present
- Other logical project divisions based on factors that might have a systematic relationships to data quality.

- Each block of 2,000 square miles or less shall be tested for FVA, SVA, and CVA

Checkpoints used for testing SVA of the bare earth elevation product must be located in the areas where bare earth post-processing was performed, distributed to avoid clustering, and support vertical accuracy reporting that is representative of the post processed areas. The SVA results will then be combined with the FVA results to compute CVA for the entire project area.

Reporting on the assessment of the vertical accuracy of the post-processed, delivered elevation data shall include the following at a minimum:

- ***A description of the process used to test the points***
- A graphic depicting the spatial distribution of the ground survey checkpoints
- An analysis of checkpoints that have errors exceeding the 95th percentile in SVA and CVA calculations
- Descriptive statistics and RMSEz in FVA calculations

4.1.4 Aerial Data Acquisition and Calibration

The mapping partner responsible for producing new elevation data must also submit a pre-flight Operations Plan and a post-flight Aerial Acquisition and Calibration Report will be provided to FEMA and/or their representatives by the data acquisition provider and uploaded to the MIP by the data provider. This information will aid future quality review efforts. The required reporting includes the following, outlined in Tables 4.1 and 4.2.

Table 4.1. Pre-flight Operations Plan

Item	Contents	Format
Flight Operations Plan	• Planned flight lines • Planned GPS stations • Planned control • Planned airport locations • Calibration plans • Quality procedures for flight crew (project-related for pilot and operator) • Planned scanset (sensor settings and altitude) • Type of aircraft • Procedure for tracking, executing, and checking reflights • Considerations for terrain, cover, and weather in project	MS Word or PDF

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Table 4.2. Post-flight Aerial Acquisition and Calibration Report

Item	Contents	Format
GPS Base station info	• Base station name • Latitude/Longitude (ddd-mm-ss.sss) • Base height (Ellipsoidal meters) • Maximum Position Dilution of Precision PDOP • Map of locations	Excel, TXT, MS Word, or PDF for data; ESRI shape file for map of locations (data and info may be in attribute table)
GPS/IMU processing summary	• Max Horizontal GPS Variance (cm) • Max Vertical GPS Variance (cm) • Notes on GPS quality (High, Good, etc.) • GPS separation plot • GPS altitude plot • PDOP plot • Plot of GPS distance from base station/s	MS Word or PDF with screenshots
Coverage	• Verification of project coverage	ESRI shape files reflecting the actual coverage area and not the applicable tiles.
Flights	• As-flown trajectories • Calibration lines	ESRI shape files
Flight logs	• Incorporated as appendix Should include: • Job # / name • Lift # • Block or AOI designator • Date • Aircraft tail number, type • Flight line, line #, direction, start/stop, altitude, scan angle/rate, speed, conditions, comments • Pilot name • Operator name • AGC switch setting • Laser pulse rate • Mirror rate • Field of view • Airport of operations • GPS base station names or numbers Comments	
Control	• Ground control and base station layouts	ESRI shape files
Data verification/QC	• Description of data verification/QC process • Results of verification and QC steps	MS Word, Excel or PDF

4.2 Quality Reviews and Reporting Performed by Independent QA/QC

When a mapping partner is assigned to perform *Independent QA of Topographic Data* macro and micro reviews of the submitted reports and data shall be performed. Macro reviews are automated processes or are checks required to establish overall data quality and shall be

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applied to the entire project area. Micro reviews are typically manual in nature and shall be used to check no less than 3 project tiles or 5% of the total number of project tiles, whichever is the greater amount.

Tables 4.3 and 4.4 outline macro and micro reviews to be conducted on the raw point cloud and for data that is post-processed. Some reviews are duplicated between the raw point cloud and post-processing phases due to the potential for errors to be introduced into the data during post-processing.

Table 4.3. Review of fully calibrated raw point cloud

Macro Reviews	
Product	**Reviewed for**
Pre-flight Operations Plan	• Compliance with section 4.1.4 and checklists in 4.2.1 • Compliance with the specifications outlined in the Mapping Activity Statement
Post-flight Aerial Acquisition and Calibration Report	• Compliance with section 4.1.4 and checklists in 4.2.1 • Compliance with the specifications outlined in the Mapping Activity Statement
LAS Point Cloud Files	• Project area coverage – buffered by a minimum of 100 meters • Data voids • Inclusion of GPS time stamp • Correct projection, datum and units • Multiple Discrete Returns (at least 3 returns per pulse) • Correct header information • Other LAS attributes required by Mapping Activity Statement such as intensity values • Correct nominal pulse spacing as required by specific risk and/or level of study and buy-up options.
Metadata	• Compliance with the FEMA Terrain Metadata Profile
Micro Reviews	
Product	**Reviewed for**
LAS Point Cloud Files	• Excessive noise • Elevation steps • Other anomalies present in the point cloud

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Table 4.4. Review of post-processed data

Macro Reviews	
Product	**Reviewed for**
LAS Point Cloud Files	• Compliance with checklists in section 4.2.1 • Project area coverage – buffered by a minimum of 100 meters • Data voids • Inclusion of GPS time stamp • Correct projection, datum and units • Multiple Discrete Returns (at least 3 returns per pulse) • Correct header information • Other LAS attributes required by Mapping Activity Statement such as intensity values • Correct nominal pulse spacing as required by specific risk and/or level of study and buy-up options. • Easting, northing and elevation reported to nearest 0.01m or 0.01 ft • Correct file-naming convention
Metadata	• Compliance with the FEMA Terrain Metadata Profile
Micro Reviews	
Product	**Reviewed for**
LAS Point Cloud Files	• Excessive noise • Elevation steps • Other anomalies present in the point cloud • Correct classification and cleanliness: no more than 2% of the project area classified to bare ground shall contain artifacts such as buildings, trees, overpasses or other above-ground features in the ground point classification (Class 2). In addition, no more than 2% of the project area shall contain incorrect classifications of points. (USGS *Lidar Guidelines and Base Specification*, v13, Section IV.14. •
Optional - Breaklines	• Correct topology • Horizontal placement • Completeness • Continuity *See Attachment 3 for breakline topology rules to be checked against*

If the mapping partner responsible *Independent QA of Topographic Data* is tasked to perform assessment of vertical accuracy of the elevation data as described above in sections 4.1.2 and 4.1.3:

- Assessment of FVA only for pre-processed data to be stored and FVA, SVA, and CVA for post-processed data
- Review of data provider vertical accuracy assessment reports

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4.2.1 Recommended Checklists

The following checklists are recommended for use during Independent QA/QC review to facilitate the process.

Pre-flight review checklist

Checklist	Pass / Fail	Comments
Planned lines – sufficient coverage, spacing, and length		
Planned GPS stations		
Planned ground control – sufficient to control and boresight		
Calibration plans		
Vendor quality procedures		
Lidar sensor scan set – planned for proper scan angle, sidelap, design pulse.		
Aircraft utilizes ABGPS		
Sensor supports project design pulse density		
Type of aircraft – supports project design parameters		
Reflight procedure – tracking, documenting, processing		
Project design supports accuracy requirements of project		
Project design accounts for land cover and terrain types		

Post-flight review checklists

Checklist for QA of Flight Logs		
Checklist	Included Yes/No	Comments
Flight logs – job #/name		
Flight logs – block or AOI		
Flight logs – date		
Flight logs – aircraft tail #		
Flight logs – lines - #		
Flight logs – lines - direction		
Flight logs – lines – start/stop		
Flight logs – lines – altitude		
Flight logs – lines – scan angle		
Flight logs – lines – speed		
Flight logs – conditions		
Flight logs – comments		
Flight logs - pilot name		
Flight logs - operator name		
Flight logs - AGC switch		
Flight logs – GPS base stations		

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Checklist for Aerial Acquisition Report		
Checklist	**Included? Yes/No**	**Comments**
GPS base station – names		
GPS base station – lat/longs		
GPS base station – heights		
GPS base station – map		
GPS quality – separation plot		
GPS quality – PDOP plot		
GPS quality - horizontal Acc.		
GPS quality - vertical Acc.		
Sensor calibration process		
Verification of AOI coverage		
As-flown trajectories		
Ground control layout		
Data verification process documented		

Final terrain product review checklists

Checklist for QA of Terrain Products		
Checklist	**Pass/Fail**	**Comments**
Vertical datum correct		
Horizontal datum correct		
Projection correct		
Vertical units correct		
Horizontal units correct		
Each return contains – GPS week, GPS second, easting, northing, elevation, intensity, return # and classification		
No duplicate entries		
GPS second reported to nearest microsecond		
Easting, northing, and elevation reported to nearest 0.01 m or 0.01 ft		
Classifications correct – 1. Unclassified; 2. Bare-earth ground; 7. Noise; 9. Water; 10. Ignored ground; 11. Withheld		
Cloud file structure conforms to project tile layout		
Naming conforms project requirements		
Deliverable tiles checked for significant gaps not covered by aerial acquisition checks and/or caused by data post-processing/filtering		

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