IGS Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS) Management Policy

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Document History

Date	Version	Amendments	Author(s)
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Station Inclusion Criteria

To be considered for inclusion in the IGS network, a station must adhere to the **IGS Guidelines for Continuously Operating Reference Stations**. The **Station Proposal Committee (SPC)**, under the oversight of the **Infrastructure Committee**, evaluates all station proposals.

If a proposed station falls within the coverage area of a **regional reference frame project** (e.g., **EUREF**, **APREF**, **NAREF**, **SIRGAS**, AFREF), it should first be incorporated into that network. The SPC will liaise with the relevant regional organisation to seek endorsement for its inclusion in the IGS network. The SPC evaluates stations based on the following criteria:

1. Site Suitability
    a. The monument foundation should be stable and secure.
    b. Locations with local geological instability due to activities such as pumping, fracking, or mining should be avoided.
    c. Ensure that the surrounding station environment has minimal obstructions, multipath and radio frequency interference, and should not change over time.
    d. Antenna mounts should be durable and designed to ensure that any replacement GNSS antenna can be re-installed in the exact same position and orientation as the original, preserving the integrity of the marker location.

2. Equipment should be compliant with IGS recommendations.

3. Data Products
    a. Stations should provide all data products recommended by the IGS.
    b. Data should be submitted to the IGS within the recommended timeframes.

4. Data Quality
    a. Ensure that the station equipment provides high-quality multi-GNSS data.
    b. The station should provide continuous and complete data with minimal gaps.

5. Metadata Maintenance
    a. Station operators must provide complete metadata on the station.
    b. Station operators must ensure that metadata is accurate and consistently updated.

Station Removal Criteria

If a station fails to meet these criteria consistently, the **SPC reserves the right to suspend or remove it from the IGS network**. Before removal, the **IGS Network Coordinator** will attempt to contact the station operator up to three times over a three-month period using the email address recorded on the respective station's site log to address the issue.

Station Status Updates:

- **Inactive:** Stations with prolonged data outages (no data for more than three months) will be classified as "inactive" until the data flow is restored. This status will be automatically applied.
- **Suspended:** If issues remain unresolved, the station may be placed in a "suspended" state, potentially leading to the removal from the network. This status will be manually applied by the SPC. Removed stations will be listed as "former" stations for reference.

Common reasons for suspension and removal include:

- Persistent poor data quality
- Incomplete or inaccurate data
- Inadequate or outdated metadata
- Non-compliant equipment
- Site or monument instability
- Lack of response from the station operator

By maintaining these standards, the IGS ensures the integrity and reliability of its global network.

Status Inquiries and Reinstatement Requests

Inquiries regarding station status may be sent to the IGS Network Coordinator via cb@igs.org.