

## Category:Art30

### From WikiCAP

Pages linked to Article 30 of Reg 796/04 are listed below, in alphabetical order. These pages (called "article" in the Wiki) represent the scope of the guidance identified in that text:

1. *Agricultural parcel areas shall be determined by any means proven to assure measurement of quality at least equivalent to that required by applicable technical standard, as drawn up at Community level.*

- Agricultural parcel

The concept of the agricultural parcel is extremely important in the operation of the land parcel identification system (LPIS). Early definitions were oriented towards the use by a single farmer, of a contiguous area of land with a single crop (Council Reg 3508/92). The introduction of Council Reg 1782/03 dropped the definitions, which were moved to the Commission Reg which initially omitted that of the agricultural parcel. After experience in 2004 with the Single Area Payment Scheme (SAPS) the definition was inserted into the Commission Reg, and at the same time modified to treat crops of the same crop group as a single "use". The current definition is derived from Comm Reg 972/07, Art 1:

- *“agricultural parcel”*: shall mean a continuous area of land on which a single **crop group**<sup>[1]</sup> is cultivated by a single farmer; however, where a separate declaration of the use of an area within a crop group is required in the context of this Regulation, that specific use shall further limit the agricultural parcel;

Uses needing a separate declaration are for instance set-aside activating set-aside entitlements, crops claimed under title IV, but also permanent pastures and uses claimed for Rural Development subsidies (Agri-Environmental Measures or Less Favoured Areas). When feasible, declaring "crop group" parcels instead of single crop parcels allows declaring parcels that otherwise might be below the minimum parcel size defined by the Member State. It may also simplify the farmer's declaration, in particular when an LPIS parcel can be fully declared as one agricultural parcel. Notes:

1. ↑ Cf. art. 49 of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 796/2004 for the definition of crop groups

- Area determined

The area determined for a given Agricultural parcel is the value kept following the decision made after comparing various area candidates: the declared value, a reference value, and possibly a measured value. The decision rules may use a technical tolerance, which will be based upon the measurement method or tool applied. See area measurement for more details.

- Area measurement

The reference parcel claimed has to be identified with respect to the full extent of its boundaries. The eligibility of the agricultural parcel area claimed will first be checked against the reference parcel.

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### Measuring the whole parcel or making use of the LPIS maximum eligible area?

Where the Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS), together or not with ancillary data such as ortho-photos, permits the confirmation of the boundaries of the declared agricultural area, the *area measurement may focus on the determination of ineligible areas* and deductions. **This situation will normally be only possible when the LPIS reference parcel includes only one agricultural parcel** (cf. Art 2 (1a) and Art.49 of R.796/2004), and correctly reflects the current status of eligibility [2]. In all other circumstances a *direct measurement* of the parcel area, for example using GPS, is required.

The method of measurement should be adapted to the expected agricultural parcel size in the region concerned, while meeting the requirement of article 30(1) of Regulation (EC) No 796/2004 (see technical tolerance).

The area measured will be expressed as the area projected in the national system used for the IACS-GIS.

## Deduction of ineligible features

The Commission services take the view that, in accordance with general control practices, deductions of minor (i.e. <100 m<sup>2</sup>) ineligible features would only need to be made if the inspector considers that together these present a significant area; i.e. an area larger than the expected precision of the measuring system (see Technical tolerance) applied with respect to the total parcel area. That is, when the **total of all ineligible features** within the parcel exceeds the tolerance of the parcel (calculated as the buffer width of the measurement tool multiplied by the external perimeter), the parcel area minus all ineligible areas is to be taken as the measured area. This approach is independent of the tool used for the measurement of the ineligible features.

- When ineligible objects of significant size (i.e. >100 m<sup>2</sup>) are identified in the LPIS reference parcel, these shall be deducted from the maximum eligible area of the reference parcel before proceeding with the measurement.
- Where **ineligible features** are **deducted** to determine the agricultural parcel area, **no tolerance** should be applied to the area of these ineligible features.

Where the LPIS official area is used to determine the measured area, through the deduction of ineligible areas, an absolute technical tolerance equivalent to that used in the creation of the LPIS will be applied. Alternatively, by default (if no technical tolerance was used in the LPIS creation), a value appropriate for the data and tools concerned should be applied: see Technical tolerance.

## Particular case of CwRS: images to be used

The available material to be used in CwRS will be the current year ortho images (VHR, possibly HR) and the most recent LPIS ortho images. As a general rule, preference will be given to the current year VHR imagery. Recent archive VHR imagery should be used only if it enhances the interpretation of the current year VHR imagery, therefore helping the interpreter making the decision.

## Determination of the parcel area, use of the technical tolerance

For the purpose of the determination of the area to be taken into account for the calculation of the aid in accordance with Art.50 of R.796/2004, the area assigned to **each agricultural parcel** will be computed as follows<sup>[3]</sup>:

- Where the absolute (unsigned) difference between the measured and declared areas is greater than the technical tolerance (expressed as an area in hectares to two decimal places), the actual **area determined through physical measurement** will be used<sup>[4]</sup>.
- In the alternative case (i.e. when the declared area is within technical tolerance of the measured area) the **area declared** will be considered as determined.

In all cases, the determined area must be **capped to the maximum eligible area** of the LPIS reference parcel.

## Determination of the crop group area

The area at the **crop group level** will be determined by summing up the individual areas of the agricultural parcels, determined as described above. No technical tolerance will be applied at the crop group level. In any case, if the area determined at the crop group level is found to be greater than that declared in the area aid application, the area declared shall be used for calculation of the aid.

Notes:

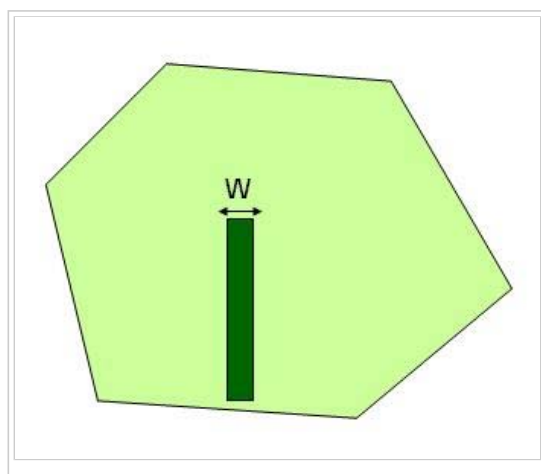
1. ↑ Cf. art. 49 of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 796/2004 for the definition of crop groups
  2. ↑ i.e. the inspector should confirm at least that the boundaries of the reference parcel are up to date and correct
  3. ↑ In accordance with Art.24(1)c of R.796/2004 no payment can be made for areas in excess of the reference parcel.
  4. ↑ In other words, when the declared area falls outside the interval [measured area - tolerance, measured area + tolerance], the measured area is retained
- Definition of the area to be measured  
**The total area of the agricultural parcel, in accordance with Art.30(2) of R.796/2004, should be measured. However, areas taken up by non agricultural activities such as buildings, woods, ponds and paths are to be excluded from this area (Art.44 of R. 1782/2003).**

The Commission services take the view that:

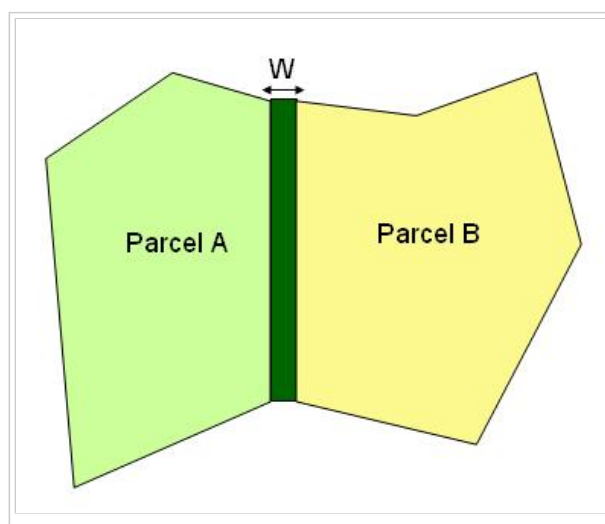
- **"Woods"** should be interpreted as areas within an agricultural parcel with tree-cover (including bushes etc.) preventing growth of vegetative under-storey suitable for grazing.
- In accordance with Art.8(1) of R.796/2004, **areas of trees** inside an agricultural parcel with density of **more than 50 trees/ha** should, as a general rule, be considered as ineligible. Exceptions, justified beforehand by the Member States, may be envisaged for tree classes of mixed-cropping such as for orchards and for ecological/environmental reasons.
- With regards to **ponds**, only permanent ponds are to be excluded.
- **Paths**, other than those created by animal access, are to be excluded.
- With regards to **shrubs**, the conditions (e.g. land cover type, maximum area percentage) under which shrubs can be considered as part of the agricultural parcel should be defined and justified by the Member State, e.g. on the basis of the customary standards of the Member State or region concerned.

In accordance with the first subparagraph of **Art.30(2) of R.796/2004**, the area to be measured can be the total area of the reference parcel provided that it is fully utilized according to the customary standards of the Member State or region concerned.

Where, in accordance with the second subparagraph of Art.30(2) of R.796/2004 **features of up to 4m wide** (walls, ditches, hedges) serve as **boundaries** between agricultural parcels and are traditionally part of good agricultural practice in the region concerned (e.g. terrace walls, drainage ditches), such features may be considered as being included; a 2m width being attributed to each adjacent agricultural parcel. **Internal features** are, under the same conditions, accepted as forming part of the agricultural parcel where their width is less than or equal to 2m. Where the feature is >4m wide (or >2m wide if internal to the parcel), the feature should be removed from the area to be measured (see figures below).



**Internal feature** of width W: if  $W \leq 2m$  include the feature in the agricultural parcel; otherwise exclude the feature



**Boundary feature** of width W: if  $W \leq 4m$  include 50% of the feature area in parcel A and 50% in parcel B; otherwise exclude the whole feature from both parcels

Art.30(3) of R.796/2004 provides for specific inclusion of (landscape) features in the Single Payment Scheme area. Therefore, features that are part of the good agricultural and environmental condition obligations or the statutory management requirements (e.g. hedges, drainage ditches, small woods according to the local regulations), **and** that are more than 2m wide inside an agricultural parcel or 4m wide at the boundary between two agricultural parcels, should be specifically recognised and defined as (landscape) features eligible for aid. Moreover, it is recommended that such features should be digitized in the LPIS-GIS, this way making possible the control of their maintenance (cf. the respect of the GAEC obligations).

Some specific considerations related to the determination of the area to be measured are given here on the linked pages.

- General considerations for conducting on-the-spot checks  
text moved to Planning of the inspection programme
- Planning of the inspection programme  
== General considerations ==

The inspector should have received sufficient instructions and training, and should be largely able to undertake the work autonomously. The inspector should have no conflicts of interest, and should be able to carry out the inspection independently.

Agricultural parcel areas shall be determined as laid down in Art.30 of R.796/2004. In order to provide a result to the appropriate precision and to ensure effective verification, the inspector must have access to appropriate claim data (including map information) and measuring equipment.

On-the-spot checks of areas, as a general rule, consist of two parts:

1. A preliminary verification of eligibility and area of all declared agricultural parcels on the basis of map materials (LPIS,

sketch maps, ortho-photos) and so forth.

2. A physical inspection of a sample of at least half of the parcels to verify the claim (eligibility, GAEC, and possibly declared crop), as well as the precise area of the agricultural parcels.

Every on-the-spot check shall be the subject of a control report in accordance with Art. 28 of Reg. 796/2004 which makes it possible to review the details of the checks carried out independently.

## Timing and advance warning

The entire check, especially *in situ* visits, has to be performed in a timely manner to ensure that unambiguous identification of the agricultural parcel limits and cropping (where necessary, e.g. for supplementary or recoupled payments) is possible.

In practice, inspections of crops, where necessary, have to be carried out in the appropriate period before, or (at latest) soon after the harvest to be effective. The Commission services consider on-the-spot checks to be completely ineffective from the moment the farmer starts to cultivate the land for the next crop season.

The use of advance warning should be kept to the minimum necessary, in order not to jeopardise OTS checks, and in any case no more than as laid down in Art.23a of R.796/2004.

## Parcel Sampling

Where the whole (100 %) of the claim is not examined, a **sample of at least half of the agricultural parcels** must be selected for examination as laid down in Art. 29 of Reg. 796/2004. An obligation then falls upon the **Member State to establish and justify the criteria for the selection of the sample** taking into account that the sample must guarantee a **reliable and representative level of control** (cf. Art. 29 of Reg. 796/2004).

In this context, the Commission services take the view that the selection should be made:

- from the complete set of parcels for which an aid claim has been made;
- after the preliminary verification and measurement (e.g. on the basis of the farmer's sketches);
- before the actual inspection in the field begins.

The driving principle of the sampling is that **parcels should be selected where they represent a risk by their nature**. It is recommended that assessment of one or more of the following criteria is used in this sampling process:

- No previous measurements through control
- High value crops
- Boundary problems identified on LPIS/GIS documentation
- Agricultural parcels within LPIS/GIS reference parcels with unclaimed areas
- Distance or isolation from the main farm location
- A target of 80% of the area claimed and at least one parcel per crop group
- etc.

Parcels, once selected, should not be dropped from the set to be checked.

Agricultural parcels should be added to the selected set to be measured where problems thus identified require that a full crop group or the full application needs to be checked (see below).

Where the LPIS/GIS in the Member State concerned is based upon reference parcels where agricultural parcel location may be ambiguous, the selection should normally be made upon the basis of these reference parcels; **all agricultural parcels inside a selected reference parcel are to be checked** for coherence with respect to the crop declared and their areas. Use should be made of sketch maps returned by farmers with their applications, to reduce such ambiguity of agricultural parcel identification.

## Extension of the parcel sample

According to Art.26(4) of R.796/2004, the extent and scope of the sample shall be extended appropriately if the checks on the initial sample cases reveal irregularities. The Commission services take the view that the following should, in general, be considered as being appropriate:

- if an **over-declaration of more than 3 % of the area** is determined in the measurement of the sampled agricultural parcels for a specific **crop group** (cf. Art.49 of R.796/2004), the sample should be extended to include all the remaining parcels of the crop group concerned.
- if an **over-declaration of more than 30 % of the overall area** is determined in the measurement of the sampled agricultural parcels, the sample shall be extended to include all the remaining parcels of the aid application concerned.

Any **reduction** in area determined with respect to area claimed will be **applied to the whole crop group**, and not only the agricultural parcels included in the representative sample (cf. Art 29 Reg 796/04).

It may be argued against this extension of the reduction that the sample may be biased towards risky parcels and therefore may

not be representative of the parcels not checked. It may be true, but the primary objective of the sample is not to estimate the area discrepancy at application level but to provide sufficient assurance that the claim is correct for each crop group. Experience has shown that when discrepancies are found in a sample of 50% of the parcels, discrepancies are likely to be present in the remaining 50% parcels. On the principle, checking only a sample of parcels is allowed provided that this sample can be increased in case discrepancies are found. This principle translates in a guideline to complete the crop group in case the discrepancy exceeds 3% of the determined area of the sample. This 3% threshold was chosen because this is the threshold triggering penalties. However this does not mean that a discrepancy below 3% does not constitute a risk for the fund and may not justify a complete check.

Moreover, extrapolating the reduction found on the sample to the whole crop group (or extending the sample) is fair with respect to farmers which are checked at 100% from the beginning.

- Specific considerations for area measurement

### **Specific considerations for Arable crop areas (Chapter 10 of R.1782/2003): coupled payments**

With regard to regions where certain features are traditionally part of good agricultural cropping or utilisation practises, Member States may after prior notification to the Commission, allow a width greater than 2 metres if those areas were taken into account for the fixing of the yields of the regions concerned (third subparagraph of Art.30(2)).

### **Specific considerations for Nut Tree areas (Chapter 4 of Title IV of R.1782/2003)**

In view of the conditions to be respected in particular in accordance with Art.15 of R.1973/2004, the objective of field checks for trees areas is confirming the size and minimum density thresholds. The field data collected therefore will focus on the positioning of the boundary nuts trees. In a subsequent step, the determination of nuts parcel areas can be carried out using GIS tools, on the basis of these tree positions.

- The orchard  
Agricultural parcels (Art.2 of R.796/2004) planted with nut trees are hereafter called “orchards”. In accordance with Art.15(3) and (4) of R.1973/2004 to be eligible the orchard must have a minimum density of nut trees (i.e. number of trees per ha fixed according to the type of tree) and the surface area may not be less than 0.1 ha. Isolated trees: [no longer relevant - deleted]
- Measuring the area of an orchard  
The trees forming the perimeter of the orchard should be identified. The area of the orchard is then calculated including a buffer zone of half the distance inter-row or a fixed buffer zone <3.5 m. When applying the above mentioned buffer, the boundaries of the nuts orchard should not overlap the limits of the LPIS reference parcel, and therefore the nuts orchard area should never exceed the area of the LPIS reference parcel.  
If several groups of trees are present on one reference parcel they should be treated and measured as separate orchards, provided that the closest distance between trees of each group is >12m for hazelnuts and >20m for other eligible species.
- Estimating orchard density  
In cases where the orchard appears fully covered by nut tree crowns of eligible species, the counting of individual trees can be omitted. However, an estimate of the orchard density should nevertheless be carried out by appropriate means (multiplication of rows, checking of a sample area, etc.). This estimate should be recorded on the report and (where necessary) noted as an estimated value.  
Where the density estimate is close (e.g., within 25 trees/ha) of the regulation limits for the tree species, counting of trees (either automatically or by photo interpretation) should be made on a representative ortho-photo background. Existing ortho-photos (LPIS-GIS, Olive GIS, Vineyard register etc.) or VHR imagery should be used, compatible with the requirements of Art.20 of R.1782/2003. When this method cannot be applied (no images available or identification of trees not possible on the available images), a field visit should be organised to count the trees on-the-spot.
  - Technical tolerance

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### **Application of technical tolerances on parcel area measurement**

The purpose of the technical tolerance is to account for the uncertainty specific to any measurement technique. In the context of the control of area based subsidies, i.e. in the process of an on the spot check, tolerances are in general applied to the assessment of the difference between the declared and measured areas of the agricultural parcel.

As from 1 January 2008, only the perimeter “**buffer**” tolerance shall be applied to agricultural parcels (see article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 796/2004 amended by Regulation (EC) No 972/2007). This buffer tolerance, which cannot exceed 1.0 ha, is calculated by multiplying the parcel perimeter by a (buffer) **width of maximum 1.5m**. Therefore Member State should use only tools that allow measuring both the area and perimeter and should make sure that these tools meet the measurement accuracy requested by the regulation.

- The technical tolerances should be applied only to agricultural parcels (with the exception of olive parcels claimed in a particular context), and not to subdivisions of an agricultural parcel (e.g. internal cadastral parcels) as this would lead to the application of an excessive technical tolerance. For the definition of the agricultural parcel, please see Agricultural parcel.
- For olive tree parcels claimed for title IV coupled aid (case of Spain only in 2008 [move to footnote]) or claimed in a Member State that includes its Olive GIS in the IACS GIS, no tolerance shall be applied since farmers are requested to declare the Olive GIS area (as well as the number and position of their olive trees) calculated as per annex XXIV to Regulation (EC) No 1973/2004.
- For the creation or update of LPIS reference parcels (cf. the checking of declared agricultural parcels) the tolerance approach as indicated in paragraph 'Measurement on-screen on a digital orthoimage' will be used.

### Proper interpretation of the perimeter to be used for tolerances calculation

The outer perimeter should be used for tolerance calculation as shown on Figure 1.

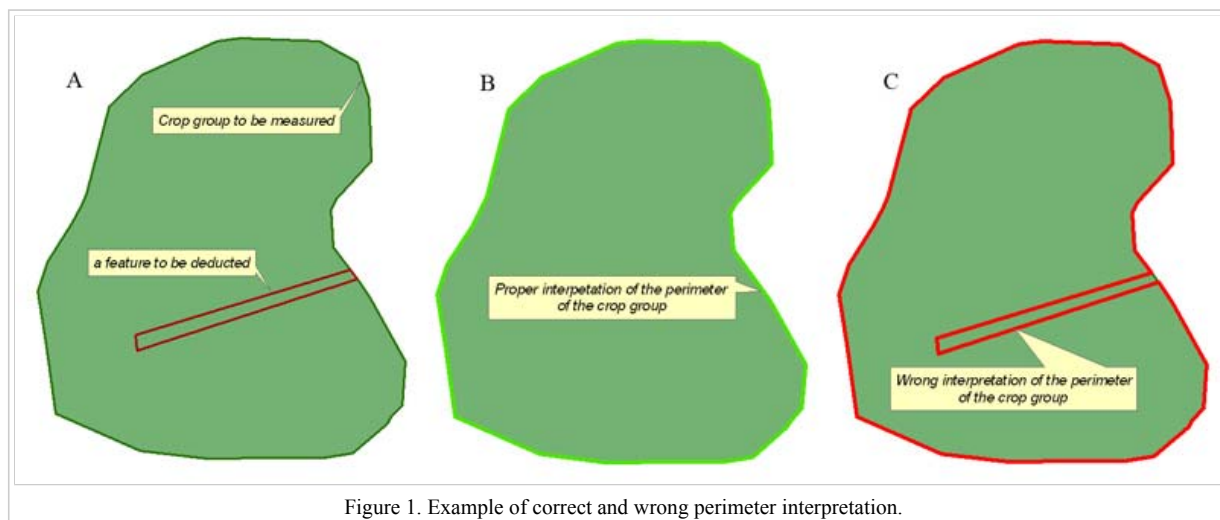


Figure 1. Example of correct and wrong perimeter interpretation.

Ineligible features included in the controlled area, like ditches, hedges etc, should not be taken into account when calculating the tolerance (see Figures 1B and 1C).

### Tools used in conjunction with area measurement of cartographic materials (analogue or digital)

**Note:** The buffer widths presented in this document should be understood as reproducibility limits at 95% confidence level (see 'JRC Area measurement validation scheme' and in particular § 7.1.3). The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) defines the reproducibility limit as "the value less than or equal to which the absolute difference between two test results (here area measurements) obtained under reproducibility conditions (with the same method but different operators and conditions, e.g. satellite configuration for GPS measurements) is expected to be with a probability of 95%".

#### Planimeter

The change in the Regulation for 2008 and beyond means that, in principle, it is difficult to support the use of the planimeter, unless it is able to apply a perimeter tolerance and has been calibrated. In such a case, the Member State should make sure that the buffer width applicable to the planimeter has been proven, (e.g. certified) and in any case does not exceed 1.5m.

#### Measurement on-screen on a digital orthoimage

It is assumed for the purpose of this document that the orthoimage quality meets at least 1:10,000 scale geometric specification (2.5m RMSE).

As a rule of thumb and in absence of validation of the measurement accuracy achievable on a given type of imagery, the tolerance to be applied should be calculated as **1.5 times the pixel size**, applied as a function of the parcel perimeter: thus, in the case of images with a 1m pixel size, the tolerance will be 1.5m times parcel perimeter length, and in the case of a 50cm pixel image the tolerance will be 75cm times perimeter length (cf. Table 1).

Table 1. Tolerance equated to map scale and pixel size

| Map scale | Equivalent pixel size | Tolerance, on-screen |
|-----------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1:10,000  | 1m                    | 1.5m                 |
| 1:5,000   | 0.5m                  | 0.75m                |
| 1:2,000   | 0.25m                 | 0.4m                 |

When linear features are to be measured on a digital orthoimage, it is recommended that the vector is digitised with a ground interval of around 50m (i.e., 5mm on a 1:10,000 scale image, or 10mm on a 1:5,000 scale image). A 2% tolerance may be applied to the length.

### Measurement on screen on a digital map object (raster or vector)

It is assumed for the purpose of this document that the digital map quality meets at least 1:10,000 scale geometric specification (2.5m RMSE).

The tolerance, which should be applied as a buffer on the parcel perimeter, will be based upon the nominal scale of the digital map dataset which acts as source material. The values related to map scale are given in Table 1.

## Tools used for physical field measurement

### GPS (standalone, EGNOS, or code differential)

GPS area measurements made by single systems (standalone) must work using a parcel-perimeter approach. In absence of any certification or other test results, the tolerance to be applied is **up to 1.25m** times the perimeter of the parcel.

It is recommended that a systematic test (or certification) of a particular system is determined using 'JRC Area measurement validation scheme'. In case a validation test for a particular stand-alone GPS has been performed, the measurement accuracy determined for this type of GPS should be used (NB: the certificate may state that GPS X has a reproducibility limit lower than x m, with x being the highest limit observed over the n parcels tested; classes such as "better than 1.5m", "better than 1.25m" may also be defined).

Whilst EGNOS is not yet considered fully operational, its use may improve on standalone signal processing; however, its use is to be treated with caution.

Due to the uncertainty of positioning at the start and end of measurements of linear features, it is recommended that standalone GPS is only used for measuring linear features greater than 100m long; in exceptional circumstances shorter lengths may be measured but care should be made to check for irregularities in the recorded vector. The tolerance applied in such a case is recommended to be 2m, irrespective of the length.

### Geodetic survey instruments (single or dual frequency phase GPS, electronic total station)

These instruments are normally used for re-measurement in the case of disagreement by the applicant and therefore they will be operated by skilled, professional survey staff. A statement of their precision for area measurement (i.e. a certificate provided by the manufacturer) should be a pre-condition of their use. Such a statement should be expressed as a function of the perimeter to be useful in the context of the 2008 regulation. In case of lack of such a statement (certificate), the tolerance to be applied should not exceed a buffer of 0.35m times the parcel perimeter.

### Wheel, tape, topofil, etc.

These systems are considered as backup tools, primarily suitable for the measurement of lengths. The use, however, of a wheel on rough ground is strongly discouraged. Care should be taken when using the tape or topofil that the tool is not caught on branches, blown in the wind, etc.

For lengths of up to 100m, a linear tolerance of 2% can be accepted. This is to avoid problems when the feature is not perfectly straight, and/or the terrain is sloped or irregular. Care should be taken with all such "analogue" tools to adjust the measured length to the projected (horizontal) length. Above 100m, other tools (e.g. GPS) should normally be applied.

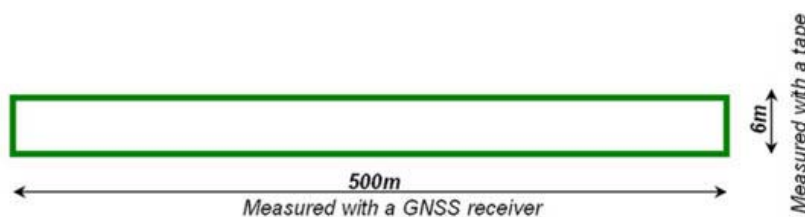
Laser range-finder tools are a preferred approach for distance measurements of absolutely straight features, and can be used for longer distances, providing that corrections for slope are possible and that the expected accuracy of the tools for such distance measurement is better than 2% linear length.

In general, the use of these tools should be restricted to linear measurements such as set-aside strip width, offset measurements from parcel boundaries, track lengths. It is not recommended that these tools are used for full parcel measurements (cf.

borders, small deductions, etc.), primarily because the geometry (shape) and slope of typical agricultural fields is rarely regular. Nevertheless, in the exceptional case where such tools are used for area measurements, a tolerance based on the perimeter length multiplied by the linear tolerance shall be applied.

Example: (to be discussed)

- width 6m, linear tolerance (tape) 2% = 0.12m
- length 500m, linear tolerance (GPS length) 2m = 2m
- perimeter tolerance, sides =  $2 \times 500\text{m} \times 0.12\text{m} = 120\text{m}^2$
- perimeter tolerance, ends =  $2 \times 6\text{m} \times 2\text{m} = 24\text{m}^2$
- total perimeter tolerance =  $144\text{m}^2$



This example regards a perfect rectangle, which in the field may be difficult to find.

## Remote sensing control

[Text updated based on CTS 2008] see this index <http://marsmap.jrc.it/romuald/mediawiki/index.php/Category:CTS>

The guidance given in 'Measurement on-screen on a digital orthoimage' applies. In effect, the results of the validation tests, performed on four types of VHR images of Ground Sampling Distance (GSD) ranging from 0.75m to 2.5m, confirmed the rule of thumb and allow deriving **recommendations for the buffer widths** for VHR sensors, in particular for sensors with a GSD less than or equal to 1m.

In case of failure of acquisition of the current year **dedicated** VHR ortho-imagery, provisions should be taken to meet the requested area measurement accuracy. These may include the use of VHR back up imagery if available or of recent archive ortho imagery in case of stable boundaries; otherwise field inspections (e.g. with GPS) should be carried out.

In case **VHR back up imagery** with a GSD above 1m will have to be used (in combination with the most recent LPIS orthophotos), a buffer **tolerance of 1.5m** will be allowed. The possible consequences of using such a tolerance with VHR back up imagery (of GSD above 1m) are presented at this page.

## Use of technical tolerance on farmers' block (îlot) reference parcel areas during the transition to the IACS-GIS

In the creation or update of farmers' blocks (îlots) during the LPIS creation, it is rational and cost-effective that small errors in areas declared for the gross areas of the reference parcels are not adjusted. In such circumstances, an evaluation should take place following the work flow as presented in Figure 1.

The technical tolerance applied should be compliant with Art. 30 of Reg 796/04, as well as compatible with the technique chosen for the block creation. For example, where orthophotos with an 80cm pixel size are used, the technical tolerance should not be more than  $(1.5 \times 0.80) = 1.20\text{m}$ .

This approach usually requires a period of validation and is therefore more complex to operate once aid applications are fully dependent upon the farmers' block as the reference parcel:

- In the first stage, where block areas determined are significantly different from those declared by the farmer, it is usually considered that a cycle of verification by the farmer is required before they can be used correctly in the aid application process;
- For the above reason, after the initial creation of the system and from its first year of use (i.e., no later than 2005), the update process (and subsequent validation) should be clearly managed with respect to the aid application process.



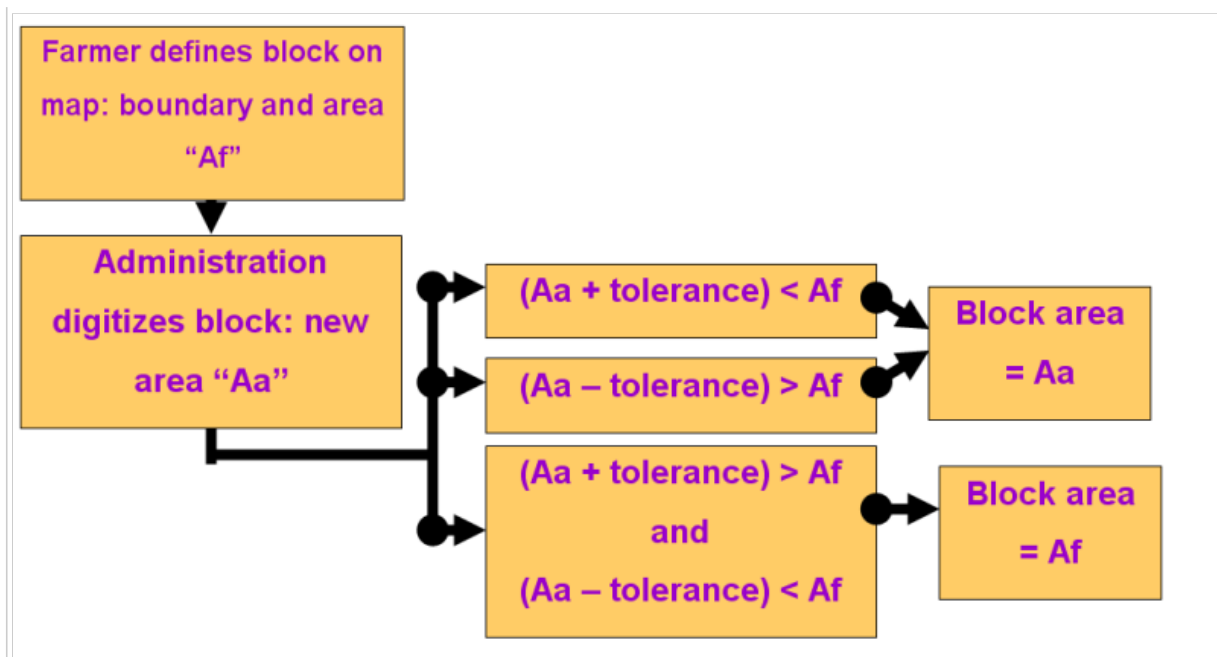


Figure 2: Farmers' block tolerance during creation

- Use of LPIS in on the spot checks  
 == On-the-spot checks, including controls with remote sensing ==

In the office, on-the-spot checks need to be prepared by selecting the areas to be measured, grouping and/or subdividing the parcels declared with reference to the LPIS, and arranging visit itineraries as efficiently as possible so as to cover one or more holdings.

- The LPIS GIS data must be available for use during the on the spot control campaign.
- The direct – preferably in digital form – consultation of the GIS data (including where applicable orthophotos) shall be possible for the preparation of field controls.

When performing either conventional on-the-spot or remote-sensing checks, survey officers should have all the documentation needed to do the job properly from the outset.

- The output from the control exercise should be efficiently implemented in the management of any consequent on-the-spot checks that need to be made.

A clearly documented and/or non-proprietary interface to the IACS GIS should be implemented for the control exercise.

- The reference parcel vector layer and the associated alphanumeric application data must be directly exploited by the body (administration, contractor) responsible for executing these controls.
- The GIS should include consistent transaction monitoring during the application and control process also for graphical objects. Conceptually, this requires time stamping and operator identification for all operations applied to graphical objects.

| On-the-spot checks                       |  | Date to be implemented                                 |
|--|--|--|
| <i>Preparation, standard OTS control</i> |  |  |
| 4.1.1                                    | GIS data used same season for controls   | First year of use, no later than 2005 application year |
| 4.1.2                                    | The output from the control exercise should be implemented in the management of any consequent on-the-spot checks that need to be made   | First year of use, no later than 2005 application year |
| 4.1.3                                    | The reference parcel vector layer and the associated alphanumeric application data must be directly used by the body (administration, contractor) responsible for executing these (including RS) controls. | First year of use, no later than 2005 application year |
| 4.1.3                                    | Clearly documented interface to the IACS GIS data should be implemented  | First year of use, no later than 2005 application year |
| 4.1.3                                    | Transaction monitoring required for GIS database   | First year of use, no later than 2005 application year |

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**Categories****Articles in category "Art30"**

There are 9 articles in this category.

**A**

- Agricultural parcel
- Area determined
- Area measurement

**D**

- Definition of the area to be measured

**T**

- Technical tolerance

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- General considerations for conducting on-the-spot checks

**U**

- Use of LPIS in on the spot checks

**P**

- Planning of the inspection programme

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- Specific considerations for area measurement

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