

2018-2019 Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP)**STANDARD 6 MASS APPRAISAL, DEVELOPMENT, AND REPORTING**

In reporting the results of a mass appraisal, an appraiser must communicate each analysis, opinion, and conclusion in a manner that is not misleading.

Comment: STANDARD 6 addresses the content and level of information required in a report that communicates the results of a mass appraisal.

STANDARD 6 does not dictate the form, format, or style of mass appraisal reports. The form, format, and style of a report are functions of the needs of intended users and appraisers. The substantive content of a report determines its compliance.

STANDARDS RULE 6-1

Each written report of a mass appraisal must:

- (a) clearly and accurately set forth the appraisal in a manner that will not be misleading;
- (b) contain sufficient information to enable the intended users of the appraisal to understand the report properly; and

Comment: Documentation for a mass appraisal for ad valorem taxation may be in the form of (1) property records, (2) sales ratios and other statistical studies, (3) appraisal manuals and documentation, (4) market studies, (5) model building documentation, (6) regulations, (7) statutes, and (8) other acceptable forms.

- (c) clearly and accurately disclose all assumptions, extraordinary assumptions, hypothetical conditions, and limiting conditions used in the assignment.

Comment: The report must clearly and conspicuously:

- state all extraordinary assumptions and hypothetical conditions; and
- state that their use might have affected the assignment results.

STANDARDS RULE 6-2

Each written report of a mass appraisal must:

- (a) state the identity of the client, unless the client has specifically requested otherwise; state the identity of any intended users by name or type;

Comment: An appraiser must use care when identifying the client to avoid violations of the Confidentiality section of the ETHICS RULE. If a client requests that the client's identity be withheld from the report, the appraiser may comply with this request. In these instances, the appraiser must document the identity of the client in the work file and must state in the report that the identity of the client has been withheld at the client's request.

- (b) state the intended use of the appraisal;
- (c) disclose any assumptions or limiting conditions that result in deviation from recognized methods and techniques or that affect analyses, opinions, and conclusions;
- (d) state the effective date of the appraisal and the date of the report;

Comment: In ad valorem taxation the effective date of the appraisal may be prescribed by law. If no effective date is prescribed by law, the effective date of the appraisal, if not stated, is presumed to be contemporaneous with the data and appraisal conclusions. The effective date of

the appraisal establishes the context for the value opinion, while the date of the report indicates whether the perspective of the appraiser on the market and property as of the effective date of the appraisal was prospective, current, or retrospective.

(e) state the type and definition of value and cite the source of the definition;

Comment: Stating the type and definition of value also requires any comments needed to clearly indicate to intended users how the definition is being applied.

When reporting an opinion of market value, state whether the opinion of value is:

- In terms of cash or of financing terms equivalent to cash; or
- Based on non-market financing with unusual conditions or incentives.

When an opinion of market value is not in terms of cash or based on financing terms equivalent to cash, summarize the terms of such financing and explain their contributions to or negative influence on value.

(f) state the properties appraised including the property rights;

Comment: The report documents the sources for location, describing and listing the property.

When applicable, include references to legal descriptions, addresses, parcel identifiers, photos, and building sketches. In mass appraisal this information is often included in property records.

When the property rights to be appraised are specified in a statute or court ruling, the law must be referenced.

(g) summarize the scope of work used to develop the appraisal; exclusion of the sales comparison approach, cost approach, or income approach must be explained;

Comment: Because intended users' reliance on an appraisal may be affected by the scope of work, the report must enable them to be properly informed and not misled. Sufficient information includes disclosure of research and analyses performed and might also include disclosure of research and analyses not performed. When any portion of the work involves significant mass appraisal assistance, the appraiser must describe the extent of that assistance.

The signing appraiser must also state the name(s) of those providing the significant mass appraisal assistance in the certification, in accordance with Standards Rule 6-3.

(h) summarize and support the model specification(s) considered, data requirements, and the model(s) chosen;

Comment: The appraiser must provide sufficient information to enable the client and intended users to have confidence that the process and procedures used conform to accepted methods and result in credible value conclusions. In the case of mass appraisal for ad valorem taxation, stability and accuracy are important to the credibility of value opinions. The report must include a summary of the rationale for each model, the calibration techniques to be used, and the performance measures to be used.

(i) summarize the procedure for collecting, validating, and reporting data;

Comment: The report must summarize the sources of data and the data collection and validation processes. Reference to detailed data collection manuals or electronic records must be made, as appropriate, including where they may be found for inspection.

(j) summarize calibration methods considered and chosen, including the mathematical form of the final model(s); summarize how value conclusions were reviewed; and, if necessary, state the availability and location of individual value conclusions;

(k) when an opinion of highest and best use, or the appropriate market or market level was developed, summarize how that opinion was determined;

Comment: The mass appraisal report must reference case law, statute, or public policy that describes highest and best use requirements. When actual use is the requirement, the report must

discuss how use-value opinions were developed. The appraiser's reasoning in support of the highest and best use opinion must be provided in the depth and detail required by its significance to the appraisal.

- (l) identify the appraisal performance tests used and the performance measures attained;
- (m) summarize the reconciliation performed, in accordance with Standards Rule 5-7; and
- (n) include a signed certification in accordance with Standards Rule 6-3.

STANDARDS RULE 6-3

Each written mass appraisal report must contain a signed certification that is similar in content to the following form:

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief:

- the statements of fact contained in this report are true and correct.
- the reported analyses, opinions, and conclusions are limited only by the reported assumptions and limiting conditions, and are my personal, impartial, and unbiased professional analyses, opinions, and conclusions.
- I have no (or the specified) present or prospective interest in the property that is the subject of this report, and I have no (or the specified) personal interest with respect to the parties involved.
- I have performed no (or the specified) services, as an appraiser or in any other capacity, regarding the property that is the subject of this report within the three-year period immediately preceding acceptance of this assignment.
- I have no bias with respect to any property that is the subject of this report or to the parties involved with this assignment.
- my engagement in this assignment was not contingent upon developing or reporting predetermined results.
- my compensation for completing this assignment is not contingent upon the reporting of a predetermined value or direction in value that favors the cause of the client, the amount of the value opinion, the attainment of a stipulated result, or the occurrence of a subsequent event directly related to the intended use of this appraisal.
- my analyses, opinions, and conclusions were developed, and this report has been prepared, in conformity with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.
- I have (or have not) made a personal inspection of the properties that are the subject of this report. (If more than one person signs the report, this certification must clearly specify which individuals did and which individuals did not make a personal inspection of the appraised property.)
- no one provided significant mass appraisal assistance to the person signing this certification. (If there are exceptions, the name of each individual providing significant mass appraisal assistance must be stated.)

Comment: The above certification is not intended to disturb an elected or appointed assessor's work plan or oaths of office. A signed certification is an integral part of the appraisal report. An appraiser, who signs any part of the mass appraisal report, including a letter of transmittal, must also sign this certification. In an assignment that includes only assignment results developed by the real property appraiser(s), any appraiser(s) who signs a certification accepts full responsibility for all elements of the certification, for the assignment results, and for the contents of the appraisal report. In an assignment that includes personal property assignment results not developed by the real property appraiser(s), any real property appraiser(s) who signs a certification accepts full responsibility for the real property elements of the certification, for the real property assignment results, and for the real property contents of the appraisal report. In an assignment that includes only assignment results developed by the personal property appraiser(s), any appraiser(s) who signs a certification accepts full responsibility for all elements of the certification, for the assignment results, and for the contents of the appraisal report. In an assignment that includes real property assignment results not developed by the personal property appraiser(s), any personal property appraiser(s) who signs a certification accepts full

responsibility for the personal property elements of the certification, for the personal property assignment results, and for the personal property contents of the appraisal report. When a signing appraiser(s) has relied on work done by appraisers and others who do not sign the certification, the signing appraiser is responsible for the decision to rely on their work. The signing appraiser(s) is required to have a reasonable basis for believing that those individuals performing the work are competent. The signing appraiser(s) also must have no reason to doubt that the work of those individuals is credible. The names of individuals providing significant mass appraisal assistance who do not sign a certification must be stated in the certification. It is not required that the description of their assistance be contained in the certification, but disclosure of their assistance is required in accordance with Standards Rule 6-2(g).