

GIS Software Standard (OAR 125-600-7550)

Exception Request Guidance

The objective of the GIS Software Standard is to provide a common geospatial software and data framework underpinning all future computer applications containing geospatial components. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to assist an agency in determining when submission of a written request for an exception to the Standard may be required.

Rule Defined Conditions

OAR 125-600-7550 defines conditions that require an agency to submit an exception request, as follows:

- Initial acquisition of non-standard GIS Software.
- Use of excepted, non-standard GIS Software evolves over time.
- Non-standard GIS Software used for documented research or instructional purposes.
- And, an emergency exception clause for exceptional circumstances

Does my particular circumstance require that I submit an Exception Request?

OAR 125-600-7550 defines “GIS” and “GIS Software” in general terms and the reader is referred to the rule for those definitions. The question arises, though, about how to apply these definitions within the context of the rule. The agency is encouraged to consider the following guidance relative to the situation at hand and see if an answer is apparent. If the proper course of action is still not apparent then the agency is encouraged to contact the Geospatial Enterprise Office (gis@gis.state.or.us) for further guidance.

First: Does the situation meet one or more of the rule defined conditions? If yes, then:

Second: Even though it may not be the desired or optimal choice, does an existing ESRI software product provide the same functionality as the software to be acquired? If yes, then an Exception Request may be required.

Additionally:

- Software products that are extensions to ESRI software and require ESRI software to function do not require an exception.
- Simple web-based graphic or map interfaces for purposes of displaying information or offering simple queries do not require an exception.
- OAR 125-600-7550 applies to software use, not systems. The agency is encouraged to examine the individual software packages that make up a system, and to apply for an exception if a system contains GIS software requiring an exception. It is possible that a system might be composed of a combination of non-GIS software, GIS software requiring an exception, and or ESRI software.