

**STATE OF KENTUCKY  
DIGITAL ORTHOPHOTO PRODUCTION  
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

**LATEST UPDATE: APRIL 14, 2017**

**I. Project Area**

**A. General**

The total **Project Area** includes the entirety of the state of Kentucky, subdivided into two project sub-areas. The “**Base Resolution**” project sub-area is defined as the **project region(s)** for which the imagery collection will be carried out at the lowest spatial resolution (see Section II.2.a below). The “**Higher Resolution**” project sub-area will be defined as **project region(s)** encompassing cities, counties, incorporated areas, regional groupings or other administrative jurisdictions subscribing to the buy-up option for acquiring imagery at higher spatial resolution with or without other options (see Section V below).

**B. Buffering**

Each **project region** shall cover the assigned area with a minimum 1,000 feet buffer on all sides.

**C. Geographic Extent**

Region extents shall be computed by projecting the geographic corners and side midpoints to the appropriate projection, then adding the buffer on each side of the resulting minimum bounding rectangle.

**II. Digital Orthophotography Production**

The production of digital orthophotography to be acquired will be according to the following **requirements**:

**1. Collection conditions:**

- a. Three consecutive leaf-off seasons in the 2018-2020 triennium.
- b. Imagery shall be acquired during minimal shadow conditions. Imagery acquisition shall occur when the sun angle is greater than 30-degrees above the horizon.
- c. Imagery shall be acquired only under conditions free from clouds and cloud shadows, smoke, haze, light streaks, snow, ice on water bodies,

foliage, flooding, and excessive soil moisture.

## 2. Image resolutions:

### a. Ground (Spatial) resolution:

([http://www.asprs.org/a/society/committees/standards/Positional\\_Accuracy\\_Standards.pdf](http://www.asprs.org/a/society/committees/standards/Positional_Accuracy_Standards.pdf))

1. Vertical color aerial digital photography will be captured for the “**Base Resolution**” sub-area. This photography must be captured at a scale sufficient for producing 1” = 200’ stereo photogrammetric mapping, meeting the horizontal accuracy classes from the 2014 American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) standards, superceding to the 1990 (legacy) Class 1 Accuracy Standards for Large Scale Maps and for production of color digital orthophotography at a resolution of 1.0 feet (12 inches).
2. Vertical color aerial digital photography will be captured for the “**Higher Resolution – Option 1**” sub-area. This photography must be captured at a scale sufficient for producing 1” = 100’ stereo photogrammetric mapping meeting the horizontal accuracy classes from the 2014 American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) standards, superceding to the 1990 (legacy) Class 1 Accuracy Standards for Large Scale Maps and for production of color digital orthophotography at a resolution of 0.5 feet (6 inches).
3. Vertical color aerial digital photography will be captured for the “**Higher Resolution – Option 2**” sub-area. This photography must be captured at a scale sufficient for producing 1” = 50’ stereo photogrammetric mapping meeting the horizontal accuracy classes from the 2014 American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) standards, superceding to the 1990 (legacy) Class 1 Accuracy Standards for Large Scale Maps and for production of color digital orthophotography at a resolution of 0.25 feet (3 inches).

### b. Spectral resolution:

(<https://pubs.usgs.gov/tm/11/b5/pdf/tm11-B5.pdf>)

The sensor or camera will capture light bands corresponding to natural color (red, green and blue or RGB), but will additionally capture the near infrared (NIR) band.

All imagery that contains both natural color and near-IR shall meet the same requirements as color imagery specified in the paragraph above and shall have the bands saved in the following order: Red, Green, Blue, and Infrared.

- c. Radiometric resolution:  
(<https://pubs.usgs.gov/tm/11/b5/pdf/tm11-B5.pdf>)

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The digital aerial images shall be clear and sharp in detail and of high radiometric quality. The sensor shall capture the images in an uncompressed “lossless” image format. The sensor shall, at minimum, utilize a 12-bit per pixel radiometric resolution.

Imagery with radiometric resolution greater than 8 bits per pixel is allowed providing that the following TIFF tags are included in the image header):

- SampleFormat
- MinSampleValue
- MaxSampleValue

- d. Coordinate system:

All mapping products will be delivered in Kentucky Single Zone State Plane Coordinate System (SPCS) coordinates (parameters defined in FIPS 1600, and units of U.S. Survey Feet), NAD83\* geometric datum (NSRS2007 or CORS96 adjustment), and NAVD88 vertical datum. The derivation of, NAVD88 heights from GPS will use the Geoid09\* model. [\* Use most current adjustment and geoid model available from the National Geodetic Survey at time of data processing]

- e. Horizontal Accuracy:  
([http://www.asprs.org/a/society/committees/standards/Positional\\_Accuracy\\_Standards.pdf](http://www.asprs.org/a/society/committees/standards/Positional_Accuracy_Standards.pdf))

The horizontal accuracy of the orthorectified imagery shall be higher than 2-foot  $RMSE_{XY}$  (1.41 foot RMSE - X or Y) in the case of 12-inch spatial resolution, 1-foot RMSE (0.71 foot RMSE - X or Y) in the case of 6-inch spatial resolution, and 0.5-foot RMSE (0.35 foot RMSE - X or Y) in the case of 3-inch spatial resolution.

f. Digital Elevation Data and Vertical Accuracy:

In order to guarantee the horizontal accuracy specified above, production of the digital orthophotos will utilize the Kentucky Aerial Photography and Elevation Data Program (KYAPED) digital elevation data, insofar as it reflects the current topography at time of imagery acquisition.

g. Control Points:

(<http://transportation.ky.gov/Highway-Design/Highway%20Design%20Manual/HD-300.pdf>)

The plotted position of each control point shall lie to an accuracy of one-hundredth (1/100) of an inch of its true position, as expressed by the SPCS coordinate for that point. Control point coordinates will be submitted as a dataset.

3. **Aerotriangulation data:** If used in the orthorectification process, aerotriangulation data consisting of a minimum of refined plate coordinates, adjusted ground coordinates, and statistical summary report shall be submitted in both hardcopy and softcopy format.

4. **Elevation data:** If elevation data other than KYAPED digital elevation data are created or modified for use in the orthorectification process, they shall be submitted as a deliverable in a non-proprietary format on portable media.

5. **Metadata:** Metadata shall be delivered as described in Section III.B.5 below.

### III. Deliverables

#### A. Source Imagery:

1. **Characterization Reports:** A Product Characterization Report for the digital camera or the sensor used shall be included as a deliverable.

(<https://calval.cr.usgs.gov/past-activities/digaerial/usgs-digital-aerial-type-certification/> )

2. **Camera Station Control:**

i. **Airborne GPS:** Positional data and statistical summary report shall

be submitted on portable media, in a non-proprietary format. A statistical report shall be produced and delivered, summarizing the results of the airborne GPS adjustment.

ii. **IMU Data:** If IMU exterior orientation data is part of the Technical Proposal, a sensor orientation data and a statistical summary report will be prepared and submitted on portable media, in a nonproprietary format. A statistical report summarizing the overall accuracy of the adjusted IMU data will also be submitted.

3. **Supplemental Ground Control:** Differentially corrected GPS Ground Control used to supplement the Airborne GPS positional data shall be delivered on portable media, in a non-proprietary format.
4. **Flight Diagram:** A Flight Diagram that illustrates the project area outline, the location of the flight lines and the approximate location of image centers, if relevant, shall be included as a deliverable. This diagram shall be provided in hardcopy and softcopy as a feature class in a file geodatabase, suitable for loading into ArcGIS.
5. **Photography and Supplemental Report(s):** A Photography Supplemental Report of all the imagery flown shall be produced for the project. The report shall show the flight line numbers and exposure station or strip numbers. The contractor shall use the USGS Aerial Photography Supplemental Report form.
6. **Digital Photo Data:** Digital image scenes from linear array scans or digital photo frames from digital area arrays – all prepared from the original exposures, containing the full 16 bit (per band) radiometric pixel values for each of the four (4) wavelengths that are collected, shall be retained. The Division of Geographic Information will have unrestricted access for evaluation purposes and all digital photo data will remain the property of the state of Kentucky.

## **B. Processed Images:**

1. **Digital Orthorectified Image Tile Size:** The orthorectified GeoTIFF files shall be organized as representing “tiles” corresponding to the 5K x 5K US Survey Feet (SPCS) Kentucky tiling scheme grid (<http://kygisserver.ky.gov/geoportal/catalog/search/resource/details.page?uuid=%7B082ADE6B-28D3-4399-A963-E299346E3A5B%7D>)

The orthophoto files must be produced directly from the digital data. Tiles shall be accompanied by an index sheet and as a feature class in a file geodatabase suitable for loading into ArcGIS. The index sheet shall include tile boundary and filename. The Index sheet collar shall include a

graticule with latitude and longitude reference coordinates and the 5K x 5K grid.

**2. Digital Orthorectified Image Characteristics:** Relative join (misalignment) of transportation features between adjacent image chips/tiles shall not exceed 2 pixels. Orthophotos shall be tonally balanced to produce a uniform contrast and tone across the image tiles of the entire project. Changes in color balance across the project, if they exist, shall be gradual. Abrupt tonal variations between tiles are not acceptable. Building tilt shall be corrected to the extent that transportation features are not obscured. Ground features appearing in the orthophoto imagery, such as building roof tops, water towers, and radio towers, shall not be clipped at seamlines or between individual image files.

**3. Digital Orthorectified Image Format:** Images shall be submitted in uncompressed, untiled, ArcGIS readable, GeoTIFF file format, Version 1.8.2, (<https://trac.osgeo.org/geotiff>) with no internal tiling or overviews. Data shall not be compressed during ANY PHASE of the production process. Presence of compression artifacts will be cause for rejection. GeoTIFF files shall include (as a minimum) the following GeoTIFF tags and keys:

- ModelTiepointTag
  - ModelPixelScaleTag
- OR**
- ModelTransformation Tag

**AND**

- GTModelTypeGeoKey
- GTRasterTypeGeoKey
- ProjectedCSTypeGeoKey
- PCSCitationGeoKey
- ProjLinearUnitsGeoKey

The address referencing system is area. GTRasterTypeGeoKey will be set to "RasterPixelsArea.

(<https://pubs.usgs.gov/tm/11/b5/pdf/tm11-B5.pdf>)

**4. Delivery Medium and Format:** Digital Orthorectified Images, in GeoTIFF format, shall be submitted on portable media.

**5. Metadata:**

- a. FGDC-compliant metadata shall be provided in extensible markup

language (.xml) format for each orthorectified tile. Additionally, an FGDC-compliant project-level metadata (xml format) shall be provided.

The following site contains information pertaining to the content and creation of the required metadata:

<ftp://ftpext.usgs.gov/pub/cr/mo/rolla/release/xmlinput/>

The site also contains the following files designed to define and support production of FGDC-compliant orthoimage metadata:

i. **XmlInput1\_64.zip.** Application for reading and creating .xml metadata files. Included in this file are a sample metadata file which shows how these data elements should be addressed (**133UAExample.xml**) and the metadata template (**133UAtemplate.xml**).

ii. **Help.pdf** The users' guide to XmlInput.

b. Tile-based and Project-level metadata suitable for publication to the Kentucky GeoPortal (<http://kygisserver.ky.gov/geoportal/catalog/main/home.page>) will be also delivered, based on XML sample files provided by the Division of Geographic Information.

#### **IV. Quality Assurance and Quality Control:**

It will be performed to ensure that all processes and procedures used, and metadata produced were adequate to meet all specifications cited as deliverables. Visual inspection of the data will be performed for the following:

- a. Atmospheric artifacts: cloud cover, smoke and haze should be absent
- b. Misalignment: excessive horizontal displacement relative join (misalignment) of transportation features between adjacent image chips/tiles or seamlines shall not exceed 2 pixels – unless a buy-up option stipulating stricter specifications state otherwise.
- c. Tonal balance: orthophotos shall be tonally balanced to produce a uniform contrast and tone across the block and the entire project. Extreme tonal or color variation across seamlines will be avoided. Changes in color balance across the project, if they exist, shall be gradual. Abrupt tonal variations between tiles or inconsistencies in tone and density between individual orthophotos and/or adjacent sheets are not acceptable.
- d. Building tilt: excessive tilt in bridges, buildings, and other raised structures shall

be corrected particularly to the extent they obscure transportation features or obscure features in the interior of a city block

- e. Transportation feature occultation: transportation features should not be obscured by shadows or buildings
- f. Clipping of ground features: features appearing in the orthophoto imagery, such as building rooftops, water tanks, water towers, and radio towers, shall not be clipped at seamlines or at image file boundaries.
- h. Image mosaicking/tiling and quality: the image with the best contrast shall be used as a reference image when the color digital orthophoto tiles are created. All other images shall have their brightness values adjusted to that of the reference image.
- i. Image artifacts: the delivered color digital orthophotos will not contain defects such as out-of-focus imagery, blurs, whorls, twists, color blemishes, dust or lint marks, or scratches. The images shall also be free from image blurs, smears, voids, image artifacts, “cold” or “hot” pixels, color distortion, color balance or tonal problems, or any other kind of “digital blemish” or data corruption. Specular reflections and other artifacts should be minimized, especially in developed areas; by patching the area using chips from adjacent overlapping imagery. All fiducial mark images shall be visible, clear and sharp. Evidence of oversaturation or undersaturation as a result of image processing or histogram manipulation should be avoided.
- j. Evidence of image compression: artifacts due to image compression should be absent.
- k. Building/structure warp: an indication of bad elevation data - should be absent
- l. Completeness: data are to cover the specified geographic extent, with no omissions or corrupt data. The image tiles delivered will contain neither background data nor NODATA pixels
- m. Ground Sampling Distance: ground pixel resolution will ensure that it meets the specified spatial resolution
- n. Perform Horizontal Accuracy Test: Testing is performed if suitable test-point control is furnished as part of the deliverables. Test-point control must be completely independent of control used during data production.
- o. Verify Metadata Adequacy: Verify that accompanying metadata is complete as defined by FGDC metadata standards

(<http://www.fgdc.gov/metadata> ).



## V. Buy-Up Options

This effort supports the acquisition of more detailed, accurate, or value-added data that exceeds the base specification. A list of common “buy-up” options is provided below for those geographic extents which require more stringent specifications.

Buy-up options are those specifications that will apply to the “**Higher Resolution – Options 1 and 2**” project sub-areas, beyond the minimum requirements for one-foot orthoimagery to be produced for the “**Base Resolution**” project sub-area. The cost of a buy-up option is based on the increased level of effort over the cost for baseline imagery. The following are considered examples of buy-up options:

1. panchromatic band acquisition
2. increased radiometric resolution or bit depth (e.g. from 8-bit to 16-bit)
3. increased footprint
4. better horizontal accuracy
5. increased spatial resolution (e.g. 6 in and 3 in)
6. reduced spatial resolution (requires resampling)

## VI. References

- ASPRS Positional Accuracy Standards for Digital Geospatial Data. 2014. Edition 1, Version 1.0. – November, 2014. [http://www.asprs.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/ASPRS Positional Accuracy Standards Edition1 Version100 November2014.pdf](http://www.asprs.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/ASPRS_Positional_Accuracy_Standards_Edition1_Version100_November2014.pdf)
- Brown, R.E. 2002. XMLInput Application Guide Version 1.6. U.S. Geological Survey. Mid-Centimeter Mapping Center. Rolla, MO. <ftp://ftpext.usgs.gov/pub/cr/mo/rolla/release/xmlinput/>
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- Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. 2016. Highway Design Manual. <http://transportation.ky.gov/Highway-Design/Highway%20Design%20Manual/HD-300.pdf>

- North Carolina Technical Specifications for Digital Orthophoto Base Mapping. 2014. <https://it.nc.gov/document/north-carolina-technical-specifications-digital-orthophoto-base-mapping>
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- USGS Digital Aerial Type Certification. 2017. <https://calval.cr.usgs.gov/past-activities/digaerial/usgs-digital-aerial-type-certification/>