

GGDM FAQ

Feature Codes

Question	Answer
I recognize some of the feature codes, but not others. What is going on?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ You may be familiar with FACC Feature and Attribute Coding Catalog; the GGDM is based on the NSG Feature Data Dictionary (NFDD).➤ NFDD is based on DGIWG DFDD. Some codes are common with FACC, but that is not guaranteed. Even if the code is the same, the concept may actually be different. Do not assume that NFDD is the same just because the code or label is the same. Please look at the definitions to be sure.
❖ AGC has a translation for the FACC-based Theater Geospatial Database (TGD) to NFDD-based GGDM.	

Feature Geometries

Question	Answer
I am familiar with Point, Area and Line (or Point, Polygon, and Polyline). Why does this documentation not have these common geometries?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The GGDM follows the NGA convention of Point, Surface and Curve. Some GGDM internal processes still use Point, Area, and Line. Within the Esri GeoDatabase, these are represented as Point, Polygon and Polyline respectively.➤ Feature class names contain geometry designator:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pnt = PointSrf = SurfaceCrv = CurveTbl = Table (non geometric table)➤ Feature names contain geometry designator :<ul style="list-style-type: none">_P = Pnt_S = Surface_C = CurveNon geometric table names will have _T = Table

Filed Codes ZI_ _ _

Question	Answer
What is going on with these strange field codes, such as the ones starting with ZI_ _ _?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ This is a convention from NGA data stores depicting a relationship held in the NSG Application Schema, the source of all of the NGA data stores. Field names are limited to 10 characters maximum. Hence, there has been an attempt to encode a lot of information into those 10 characters.➤ When you see a field name that is greater than 3 characters:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If there are 5 characters followed by an underbar “_”

	<p>and then 3 or 4 characters, the initial 5 characters represent the entity from which this attribute is derived.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the attribute is a complex attribute – an interval, multi-valued attribute, or some other special attribute, the first character may represent the entity from which this attribute is derived. • Multi-valued attributes will have suffixes: “2”, “3”, ...
<p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZI020_GE4 (Location Country) Designation : GENC Short URN-based Identifier <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ZI020 = Geopolitical Entity Designation ✓ GE4 = GENC Short URN-based Identifier • ZSAX_RSO Restriction Information : Security Attributes Group < resource classification> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Z = ZI002 Restriction Information ✓ SAX = Security Attributes Group ✓ RSO = Resource Classification • BPWSBC Inland Waterbody Bank : Predominant Waterbody Bank Slope (second bank) <interval closure> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ B = BH141 Inland Waterbody Bank ✓ PWS = Predominant Waterbody Bank Slope ✓ B = (second bank), two banks A and B ✓ C = <interval closure>, one part of an interval value 	

Need another domain value

Question	Answer
<p>I need to use a domain value that isn't in the list of allowed domain values. For example: I need the value "Processing/Treatment" for Feature Function and it isn't there. What do I do now?</p>	<p>There is a process for addressing this issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Step1: Check the definitions for the domain values to make sure you didn't miss something. ➤ Step2: If you are still certain the required value isn't present, select the domain value "Other" (if available). Then record your required domain value into the OTH Specified Domain Value(s) attribute. OTH structure specification shown on the next slide.
<p>❖ Note about "Other": If the designers felt that the domain value list represents the ENTIRE and COMPLETE set of possible values there will not be a value of "Other" in the domain value list. In this case, you will have to select "No Information" for the attribute value and then you may use the OTH Specified Domain Value(s) to capture the value you require. You should also create a change request documenting your requirement.</p>	

Default values: -999999, No Information, and noInformation

Question	Answer
<p>What is up with the -999999, No Information, and noInformation as default values?</p>	<p>➤ Short Answer: Generally, most defaults represent “No Information”. Different data types and constraints require the use of different values.</p> <p>➤ Long Answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the field is a unconstrained text, default is “No Information” • If the field is structured text (often using a space as a delimiter), default is “noInformation” • If the field is a numeric field, the default is -999999 signifying “No Information”. • If the field is an enumerated domain value using a numeric value for the selector, the default value is usually -999999. There are three enumerated domain values that have one and only one possible value, and the default is set to that one value. These three are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1) HOP_FIELD_S ZI013_CSP Crop Information: Crop Species is set to 18 = Hop ▪ 2) RICE_FIELD_S ZI013_CSP Crop Information: Crop Species is set to 28 = Rice ▪ 3) VINEYARD_P and VINEYARD_S ZI013_CSP Crop Information: Crop Species is set to 16 = Grape. • If the field is an enumerated domain value using a text value for the selector, the default value is “noInformation”, except in the case of the field ZSAX_RS0 Restriction Information: Security Attributes Group <resource classification>, the default is “U” for UNCLASSIFIED. • If the field is the restriction information, then the default must be a unique identifier of a record in the restriction information table.

“No Information”

Question	Answer
<p>What does “No Information” really mean?</p>	<p>➤ Depending on the nature and quality of available source, the state of the data collection/update process, and other conditions, it may not be possible to populate a value due to lack of knowledge. In cases where your data collection guideline specifies an attribute whose collection is not specified in an accompanying extraction guide it is still necessary to populate a "value" when instances of the feature type are collected. The value 'No Information' shall be used in these, and similar, circumstances.</p> <p>➤ The 'No Information' value condition may be variously understood to mean:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "not populated" (e.g., the data store has been initialized but not yet populated) • "unknown" (e.g., an attempt was made to determine the value but the source materials were inadequate) • "missing" (e.g., a determination was attempted and despite source materials being adequate the attempt failed) • "withheld" (e.g., a determination was successful but for policy reasons the value was not retained/stored)
--	--

Not applicable

Question	Answer
What does the domain value "Not Applicable" mean?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In certain circumstances, it may not be relevant to populate a particular data value. For example, in the case of an Extraction Mine, if the 'Extraction Mine Type' is 'Opencast' then the value of 'Underground Mine Access' (one of: 'Drift', 'Slope', and 'Shaft') is not meaningful since this type of mine is not located underground -- therefore the value of 'Underground Mine Access' is 'Not Applicable'. ➤ Resolution of such conflicts shall come through interactive examination of the attribute value assignments, or by following specific directives as stated in the Contractual Documents. If there are questions, check with project management for the proper attribute value to use that is appropriate for the production environment.

Interval attributes

Question	Answer
What are interval attributes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This is a mechanism used to represent a range of values. It requires 3 data fields be set. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the past, you may have used something like Tree Spacing Category, or Depth of Water and the possible values were specific domain values. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ex. Depth of Water (DW1, DW2): 1 = "<= 0.8"; 2 = "> 0.8 and <= 1.6"; 3 = "> 1.6 and <= 2.4"; 4 = "< 2.4" ➤ This is now represented by 3 data fields, the lower value, the upper value, and a description of the bounding type.

Code list attributes

Question	Answer
What are code list attributes?	<p>➤ This is a domain value specification convention started by NGA allowing certain domain values to change more frequently than database releases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The “authoritative” list of values is provided via http link. You can find the link at the end of the attribute definition in the Entity Catalog.• If the link does not work – NGA needs to be contacted.• In some cases, the database is built to include the code list values as domain values (pick lists); but other times, there are no domain values included and the value must be looked up from the http link.

The value “-----”

Question	Answer
Why do I see all of these values “-----”?	<p>➤ You see the “-----” values because features are grouped into feature classes, but not all attributes apply to all features in the feature class, the “-----” is often (but not always) shown for attributes that are not applicable to the selected feature.</p> <p>➤ The definitive method of identifying attributes that are not applicable to the feature subtype is to examine the domain name.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If it contains the string “Mst_null”, then it is a not applicable attribute for the selected feature subtype.