

USPAP Q&A

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This communication by the Appraisal Standards Board (ASB) does not establish new standards or interpret existing standards. The ASB USPAP Q&A is issued to inform appraisers, regulators, and users of appraisal services of the ASB responses to questions raised by regulators and individuals; to illustrate the applicability of the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) in specific situations; and to offer advice from the ASB for the resolution of appraisal issues and problems.

Appraisers “Providing Comps”

Question:

I have a client that just wants me to “provide comps” from a neighborhood. Are there any USPAP requirements I must comply with to perform this task?

Response:

To answer this question, it is important to identify exactly what the appraiser is being asked to do. If the appraiser is asked to “provide comps,” that would typically mean the appraiser would be exercising his or her own judgment to determine which sales are most “comparable” to the subject property. The appraiser may choose to include only those sales that he or she deems are most similar to the subject in size, location, quality, etc., which could mean that certain sales may be omitted. In this case, the resulting data would have been “filtered” by the appraiser’s judgment, which would have the net effect of providing a range of value to the client. This range of value is defined as an appraisal under USPAP; therefore, the appraiser would be obligated to comply with STANDARDS 1 and 2.

This should be contrasted to a request for an appraiser to simply provide data. For example, an appraiser asked by a client to provide “sales data of all homes located within a one mile radius” of a specific address could comply with the client’s request without complying with STANDARDS 1 and 2, as the appraiser would just be providing sales data pursuant to the client’s defined parameters. In this example, the appraiser must be careful not to communicate any opinions or conclusions regarding the data provided.

For related guidance on this topic, please refer to Advisory Opinion 19, *Unacceptable Assignment Conditions in Real Property Appraisal Assignments* and Illustration #4 “Appraisal and Market Information” in Advisory Opinion 21, *USPAP Compliance*.

Business Valuation Using Asset-Based (Cost) Approach**Question:**

I am valuing a controlling interest in a business enterprise by use of an asset-based (cost) approach, and that business owns real property. Am I required to have an appraisal of the real property or may I use other indications of the real property value?

Response:

An appraisal of the real property would not always be required. Whether or not an appraisal is necessary is based on whether credible assignment results can be developed for the business interest without such an appraisal. And whether or not assignment results are credible is measured in the context of the intended use of those assignment results. The decision is part of the scope of work determination the business appraiser must make.

For some intended uses, the business appraiser may determine that an appraisal of the real property is required (to be performed by an appraiser competent to perform the appraisal and in compliance with USPAP). For other intended uses, the business appraiser may determine that an indication of the real property value other than a real property appraisal may be appropriate. Such indications could be a management estimate, a recent transaction of the property, or tax assessment values.

**For further information regarding
USPAP Q&A, please contact:**

John S. Brennan, Director of
Research and Technical Issues

The Appraisal Foundation
1155 15th Street, NW, Suite 1111
Washington, DC 20005

(202) 624-3044
(202) 347-7727 fax