GUIDELINES FOR EFFECTIVE ASSESSMENT ADMINISTRATION IN NEW YORK STATE

A SELF-REVIEW GUIDE FOR ASSESSING UNITS

Based on Standards Published by the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO)

New York State Department of Taxation and Finance Office of Real Property Tax Services WA Harriman Campus Albany, New York 12227-0801

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INSTRUCTIONS

This self-review guide is intended to assist city, town and county officials in evaluating how their municipality compares to standards developed by the International Association Of Assessing Officers (IAAO). The IAAO is an organization that promotes innovation and excellence in property appraisal, property tax policy and assessment administration through professional development, education, research and technical assistance.

This guide is intended for use by assessing units. The purpose of the guide is to make municipal officials aware of the IAAO standards, help you evaluate them in the context of what you are doing, and assist you in recognizing where you meet or exceed the standards, or where there might be opportunities for improvement.

The guide can be a helpful tool, especially when an assessing unit is working with ORPS on a reassessment project. ORPS staff may review the document and obtain detailed information immediately about an assessing unit. If the guide has not been completed, ORPS staff can assist in completing it and help with an analysis of the results.

The IAAO has published a series of standards relative to assessment administration that is organized by various subject areas. Since the release of the initial guide in 1999, the IAAO has updated many of its standards. This document reflects standards in place as of November 2002.

The guidelines in this booklet are based on those standards. The specific IAAO standards that were used in developing the guidelines are listed in the table below. Each guideline is referenced to its corresponding standard by the abbreviation.

Abbreviation	IAAO Publication
AA	Standard on Assessment Appeal, approved July 2001
CAS	Standard on Contracting for Assessment Services, approved February 2002
FAC	Standard on Facilities, Computers, Equipment and Supplies for Assessment Agencies, approved May 1996
MAS	Standard on Mass Appraisal of Real Property, approved February 2000
PD	Standard on Professional Development, approved December 2000
PR	Standard on Public Relations, approved July 2001
PTP	Standard on Property Tax Policy, approved August 1997
RAT	Standard on Ratio Studies, approved July 2001

This booklet is organized so that it can serve as a self-review guide. After a short series of information questions, the rest of the self-review guide is organized into 3 columns. The first column is the IAAO standard with a reference to its source. The second column contains one or more questions that relate to the guidelines. The third column is for notating actions needed to move closer to the IAAO guideline. By responding to the questions, you can evaluate how your assessing unit compares to the IAAO standard. There is a space for notes indicating the steps that you may want to take to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of your assessment administration.

While this booklet is structured for use as a self-assessment, ORPS regional staff is available to assist officials in explaining the standards, completing the guide, and evaluating the results. Staff can be contacted at any of our regional offices.

A similar set of guidelines has been published for counties. It is entitled **GUIDELINES FOR EFFECTIVE ASSESSMENT ADMINISTRATION IN NEW YORK STATE - A SELF REVIEW GUIDE FOR COUNTIES**. Copies of the guidelines may be obtained from one of the regional offices of the Office of Real Property Services:

North	Albany	(518) 486-4403 or Ray Brook (518) 891-1780
South	White Plains	(914) 215-6300
West	Batavia	(585) 343-7456
Central	Syracuse	(315) 471-4816
Long Is	land	(631) 777-1785

Before proceeding, it is important to understand two important terms - *reassessment* and *reappraisal*.

1. <u>*Reappraisal*</u> means the process of physically inspecting and reappraising each parcel at least once every six (6) years. Reappraisal refers to the valuation of a single parcel.

(a) Physically inspecting means, at a minimum, observing each property from the public right-of-way in order to ascertain that the physical characteristics necessary for reappraising are complete and accurate.

(b) Reappraising means the developing and reviewing of an independent estimate of market value for each parcel by the appropriate use of one or more of the accepted three approaches to value (cost, market and income).

2. <u>Reassessment</u> means a systematic analysis of all assessments, either within an assessing unit or within a class of a special assessing unit, to assure that they are at the stated uniform percentage of value as of the valuation date of the assessment roll upon which the assessments appear. Reassessment applies to a group of parcels. It is synonymous with the terms revaluation and update.

A reassessment can be completed by a reappraisal of all parcels, trending all parcels to current value, or a combination of both.

Background Data

A. County:		
C. Municipality has:	sole appointed assessor sole elected assessor three member board of assessors	
D. Evaluation conducted by:E. Date of this evaluation:	Title:	

Guideline	Status (Check Most Appropriate)	Actions needed to move closer to guideline
1. Current market value implies annual assessment of all properties. This does not necessarily mean that every property must be appraised each year. In annual assessment, the assessing officer should consciously reevaluate the factors that affect value, express the interactions of those factors mathematically, and use mass appraisal techniques to estimate property values. Thus, it is necessary to observe and to evaluate, but not always to change, the assessment of each property each year to achieve market value. <i>Reference:</i> PTP 4.2.2	 A. Assessments for <u>all</u> locally assessed properties are systematically analyzed each year to maintain current market value. Agree Disagree Don't know B. The current budget reflects a level of expenditures necessary to annually sustain equity. Agree Disagree Disagree Don't know 	
2. A proactive public relations program is essential to increase public awareness of the assessment process and of the importance of the property tax in funding government. A public relations program should be an integral part of every assessing office's work. <i>Reference:</i> PR 2.1	 A. Assessor has a public relations program to communicate the importance of the property tax. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
 3. A public relations program consists of research, action planning, communications and evaluation. Research should determine how the public perceives the policies, programs, and operations of the assessing office. An appropriate action plan based on research should be developed. Communications with the public should be positive and courteous and provide education on the issues. When possible, the most current forms of technology and means of distributing information about assessment functions, programs, and results should be used to increase effectiveness of communications. The effects of communication efforts should be evaluated and improvements made as required. The public relations program should be designed to give special attention to current social, economic, and political <i>Cont'd</i>. 	 A. Research, such as a survey, has been undertaken regarding the public's perception of the assessing office. Agree Don't know B. The public relations program meets the needs of the jurisdiction. Agree Don't know C. Communications with the public are courteous and educational. Agree Don't know D. Current technology is used to distribute information to the public. Agree Disagree Don't know E. Communications efforts are evaluated and improved periodically. Agree Disagree Don't know 	

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 conditions. The program should directly reflect these conditions and be tailored to meet the needs of the jurisdiction. <i>Reference:</i> PR 3 4. The assessing office should have a public relations officer to develop and coordinate its public relations program. Depending upon the circumstances, 	A. The assessing office has a public relations officer, or works with vendor, county and/or state officials on a public relations program.	
assessing offices can appoint a full-time officer, assume the duties themselves, or assign them to another senior staff person. <i>Reference:</i> PR 3.1	Agree Disagree Don't know	
5. In order to minimize adverse public reaction, the assessor should anticipate and plan for emerging issues and developments. <i>Reference:</i> PR 3.4	 A. The assessor has a plan for emerging issues and developments. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
6. The assessing office should have a written plan for handling public relations crises. Roles should be defined. <i>Reference:</i> PR 3.4.1	 A. The assessor's office has a plan for handling crisis situations. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
 7. Direct communications with constituents should be used to explain the role of the assessing office and the services it provides. Assessor should make use of all available media to communicate with constituents. Any communication with the public, (written or verbal), should be in plain language without professional jargon. <i>Reference:</i> PR 3.5 	 A. The assessor uses the following on a regular basis to communicate: (Check all that apply) Local newspaper Regional newspaper Radio Television Public access television B. Communications are generally simple and understandable. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
8. The assessing office should develop a procedures manual that details how staff should communicate with the public. <i>Reference:</i> PR 4	 A. The assessor's procedures manual contains a section on dealing with the public, or staff is aware of and in compliance with guidelines for public relations published by ORPS. Agree Disagree Don't know 	

9. All records should be made available for public review unless specifically limited by law or confidential information is involved. The assessor should establish guidelines for the dissemination of real estate records and should be sensitive to privacy concerns. <i>Reference:</i> PR 5	 A. All public records are available for review. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
10. In preparing printed materials and correspondence for the public, special attention should be paid to form, content, length, and language. These include: correspondence, assessment notices, special purpose messages, forms and questionnaires, and annual reports. Reference: PR 6	 A. Material and correspondence are reviewed on a regular basis for form, content and language. Agree Disagree Don't know B. Documents are retained in accordance with State Archives and Records Administration (SARA)? Agree Disagree Don't know C. Printed communication is clear and concise. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
 11. Assessment notices should be mailed to every property owner according to legal requirements. In addition to an assessment notice, a tax impact statement is mailed showing projected real estate taxes for the upcoming year, based on existing budgets (or proposed budgets if available). References to truth in taxation or other statutes placing limits on budget or levies may be helpful. Whenever an assessment is changed, a notice of assessment that identifies the property, the property owner, the estimated market value, and the assessed value of the property should be mailed to each property owner. <i>Reference:</i> PR 6.2, AA 6.1 	 A. Assessment change notices are mailed to taxpayers annually. Agree Disagree Don't know B. Assessor mails a tax impact notice showing anticipated taxes for the next year. Agree Disagree Disagree Don't know 	
12. Every assessing office should maintain a file of forms, questionnaires, and letters for certain recurring events. Typical forms and questionnaires include appeal forms, exemption applications, income and expense <i>Cont'd.</i>	 A. Are the following available from the assessor's office? Senior citizens exemption applications Veterans exemption applications Section 420a/420b nonprofit exemption applications <i>Cont'd.</i> 	

questionnaires and sales questionnaires. <i>Reference:</i> PR 6.4 An assessment office should always have standard forms available on demand. These include data collection forms, assessment roll forms, property appraisal forms, assessment notices, exemption applications, appeal, tax relief and abatement applications, other preferential assessment applications, sales, cost, income and expense, and property characteristics questionnaires. <i>Reference:</i> PR 6.4, FAC 8	STAR exemption applications How to file a grievance booklets Income and expense questionnaires Sales questionnaires	
13. The assessor should prepare an annual report to the municipality summarizing the activities and accomplishments of the assessing office. <i>Reference:</i> PR 6.5	 A. The assessor files an annual report with the city council or town board. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
14. The assessor or the spokesperson should be accurate, impartial, and avoid vague answers and comments off the record. <i>Reference:</i> PR 7	 A. The assessor or spokesperson is direct and accurate. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
15. The assessing office should maintain a list of media contacts. The list should be reviewed annually and include person in all types of media. <i>Reference:</i> PR 7.1	 A. The assessor has a current list of media contacts. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
16. Legal notices should be placed in newspapers of general circulation. <i>Reference:</i> PR 7.3	 A. Legal notices are placed in local papers. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
17. Brief public service announcements should be sent to local newspapers, radio and television stations. <i>Reference:</i> PR 7.4	 A. Public service announcements are sent to all media. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
18. During the appeal process, as in all other situations, taxpayers should be treated with courtesy and respect. New information should be evaluated objectively. <i>Reference:</i> PR 10.1	 A. Taxpayers feel they are treated with courtesy and respect. Agree Disagree Don't know B. Hearings are conducted in public. Agree Disagree Don't know 	

 19. A form and directions for filing an informal appeal should be included with the assessment notice or be easily available to the public. Taxpayers should be informed of any associated filing fees and deadlines. Taxpayers should be made aware of the rules and procedures for an assessment appeal hearing. Information on what constitutes a valid appeal should be made available. <i>Reference:</i> PR 10.2, PR 10.3 	 A. Taxpayers are properly informed regarding forms and deadlines. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
20. An appellant should be quickly notified in writing of the decision concerning an assessment review. The petitioner should be given forms for and information about the next level of appeal and of the pertinent deadlines. <i>Reference:</i> PR 10.4	 A. Applicants are notified promptly of decisions. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
21. Special consideration should be given to situations in which a large number of appeals is expected. <i>Reference:</i> PR 10.5	 A. Consideration is made for a large number of taxpayers who might be attending grievance day. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
22. Adequate space and facilities should be made available for waiting appellants. <i>Reference:</i> PR 10.6	 A. Adequate facilities for waiting taxpayers are available. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
23. The public needs to know why assessments are made and what is financed by property taxes. The taxpayer should be made aware of the assessment process, the budgeting process, and the tax rate process. <i>Reference:</i> PR 11	A. The assessor communicates the importance of property taxes, and their uses. Agree Disagree Don't know	
24. Assessing office websites should be content-driven, so that information can be easily accessed, retrieved and reviewed. <i>Reference:</i> PR 12.1	A. Assessor's website is content driven. Agree Disagree Don't know	
25. Adequate office space should be provided. The arrangement should encourage teamwork, promote self-esteem, minimize distracting sights and sounds, and help each employee work efficiently.	A. Where is assessor's office located? Municipal building Private office Private residence No office	
Cont'd.	Cont'd.	

Facilities should comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). <i>Reference:</i> FAC 3.1	 B. The office space is adequate and efficient. Agree Disagree Don't know C. The assessor's office complies with ADA's requirements for public access. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
 26. Minimum space standards are: <u>Assessor</u>: private office, 200 sq.ft. <u>Chief deputy</u>: private office, 170 sq.ft. <u>Supervisor</u>: office or partitioned space, 150 sq.ft. <u>Appraiser</u>: office or partitioned space, quiet work areas, 50 to 100 sq.ft. <u>Support staff</u>: adequate workspace, open or partitioned, to promote intended work functions and access. <u>Aisles</u>: should conform to local codes/ADA standards. <u>File and storage space</u>: A space of 1.5 ft. x 5 ft., not including aisle requirements, should be provided for each standard three-drawer letter- or legal-size file cabinet. Sufficient space for storage of supplies should be provided in a convenient unobtrusive location. <u>Training and meeting space</u>: adequate space should be provided for training, meetings, and a library. <u>Public service space</u>: should be sufficient to serve public needs and allow access to and review of records. There should also be provisions for counters, waiting areas, private conferences, and the like. The space should reflect the size of the jurisdiction and be based on a study of actual requirements. Additional space may be necessary during reappraisals. <u>Printers/photocopiers</u>: should be placed in convenient locations throughout the office. Machines that generate heat, noise, or fumes should be located in a separate enclosed area with adequate ventilation. 	A. Are the minimum standards met for each category as follows (use n/a for not appropriate)? Assessor Chief deputy Supervisor Appraiser Aisles File and storage space Training and meeting space Public service space Printers/photocopiers	

 27. An assessment office should have office machines, in addition to computers, in quantities and with capabilities sufficient to meet the needs of the office. Such equipment includes: photocopy machine scanning and micrographic equipment mailing machine typewriters and dictating equipment calculators facsimile machines printers multifunction machines <i>Reference:</i> FAC 4.1 	 A. Does the assessor's office have access to the following equipment (use n/a if not appropriate)? Computer(s) with internet access Photocopy machine Scanning equipment Mailing machine Facsimile machines Printers 	
 28. The office should have an adequate number of telephone lines to ensure that an open line is available for both incoming and outgoing calls. Each employee should have ready access to a phone. <i>Reference:</i> FAC 4.4 	 A. The assessor's office has an adequate number of telephone lines. Agree Disagree Don't know B. Each employee has ready access to a phone. Agree Disagree Disagree Don't know 	
29. Computers are a critical part of the assessment function. Assessment offices must recognize that computer technology is changing rapidly. They should, therefore, frequently evaluate the adequacy of their systems and attempt to maintain systems at the current state of the art. <i>Reference:</i> FAC 5	 A. The adequacy of the computer systems is evaluated regularly. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
30. The system should provide direct on-line access to files, allowing data retrieval almost instantly. The assessment office should have enough computer peripherals to provide adequate data entry, storage, retrieval, and backup capabilities; printer support; and graphics. <i>Reference:</i> FAC 5.2.2	 A. Access to the data files is almost instantaneous. Agree Disagree Don't know B. The computer system has sufficient peripherals for processing purposes. Agree Disagree Don't know C. The computer system has sufficient peripherals for backup purposes. Agree Disagree Don't know C. The computer system has sufficient peripherals for backup purposes. Agree Disagree Don't know 	

	 D. The computer system has access to a modem. Agree Disagree 	
	 E. The computer system has access to the internet. Agree Disagree 	
	 F. The computer system has access to CD ROM. Agree Disagree 	
 31. The assessment office should have applications software that performs the actual functions required by the user. Mass appraisal work, which includes assessment administration, database management, valuation modeling, and reporting functions, is often performed by a specialized set of applications programs referred to as computer-assisted mass appraisal (CAMA). The assessment office should have a variety of applications software packages available to perform such routine functions as word processing, spreadsheet analysis, statistical research, database queries, graphics presentation and project planning. <i>Reference:</i> FAC 5.3 	 A. The assessor's office has access to the following applications software: assessment administration valuation (market, cost and income) word processing spreadsheet database management/data query graphics presentation project planning 	
32. A minimum of two people must understand the computer system and software so that backup is provided if a key person leaves, or is not otherwise available. <i>Reference:</i> FAC 5.3.2	 A. The understanding of the computer system and software for backup purposes is provided by: Assessor Assessor's staff member Other city or town staff County director County director's staff member Other county staff ORPS staff Private vendor No backup exists 	
 33. An assessment office should possess the following kinds of equipment for collecting data: accurately prepared and maintained parcel identification maps measuring instruments calculators motor vehicles or reimburse staff for use of privately owned vehicle 	 A. The assessor's office has the following items needed for field inspection: tax maps tape measure/measuring wheel calculator id cards laptops camera: digital 	
Cont'd.		

 official identification cards specialized equipment (laptop, camera, <u>geographic positioning</u> <u>system</u> [GPS] device, tape recorder) miscellaneous field equipment (road maps, cell phone, pager, flashlight, clipboard, hard hat, safety glasses) <i>Reference:</i> FAC 4.2 	35mm instant other	
34. Computer software and hardware are of little benefit if users lack the skills for using them efficiently. Training and documentation, critical to success and productivity, are resource intensive and require ongoing investments. <i>Reference:</i> FAC 5.4.	 A. Ongoing investments are being made to develop employees' computer hardware and software skills. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
35. The following kinds of reference materials should be kept current and readily available: <u>Standards of Practice</u> - laws, regulations, policy memoranda, procedural manuals, appraisal manuals and schedules, standard treatises on property appraisal and taxation; and <u>Professional library</u> - every assessment office should have a comprehensive professional library that contains the information employees need to perform their duties and to keep abreast of developments. The library should contain the material outlined in the standards of practice, periodicals relating to appraisal and assessment administration, equipment manuals and software documentation. <i>Reference:</i> FAC 6.1, FAC 6.2	 A. The assessor has access to the Real Property Tax Law and other laws. Agree Disagree Don't know B. The assessor has access to the Opinions of Counsel published by ORPS. Agree Disagree Don't know C. The assessor has access to the State Board's rules. Agree Disagree Don't know D. The State Board's rules are updated with all revisions. Agree Disagree Don't know E. The assessor has access to the Assessor's Manual. Agree Disagree Don't know F. The Assessor's Manual is updated with all revisions. Agree Disagree Don't know G. The assessor has access to a professional library: at the municipal office at the county office at another site no access Cont'd. 	

 H. The assessor's office has procedural manuals. Agree Disagree Don't know I. The assessor has access to software documentation and manuals. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
 A. The assessor received basic certification from the State Board. Complete for each assessor. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
 A. The jurisdiction establishes and funds education supporting certification. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
 A. The budget contains sufficient funds for training and education? Agree Disagree Don't know 	
 A. Individuals were tested for minimum skills and required knowledge before employment. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
 A. Does the assessor meet NY State standards for continuing education of 24 hours in one year or 72 hours in 3 years? Complete for each assessor. Agree Disagree Don't know B. Indicate the organizations for which the assessor has designations. Complete for each assessor. International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) Institute of Assessing Officials (IAO) NY Dept. of State Appraiser License Other professional appraisal organizations 	
	 manuals. Agree Disagree Don't know I. The assessor has access to software documentation and manuals. Agree Disagree Don't know A. The assessor received basic certification from the State Board. Complete for each assessor. Agree Disagree Don't know A. The jurisdiction establishes and funds education supporting certification. Agree Disagree Don't know A. The jurisdiction establishes and funds education supporting certification. Agree Disagree Don't know A. The budget contains sufficient funds for training and education? Agree Disagree Don't know A. Individuals were tested for minimum skills and required knowledge before employment. Agree Disagree Don't know A. Does the assessor meet NY State standards for continuing education of 24 hours in one year or 72 hours in 3 years? Complete for each assessor. Agree Disagree Don't know B. Indicate the organizations for which the assessor has designations. Complete for each assessor. International Association of Assessing Officials (IAO) NY Dept. of State Appraiser License

	 C. Obtaining an IAAO designation may merit salary increases. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
41. Sales data files should reflect the physical characteristics of property when sold. <i>Reference:</i> RAT 6.1	 A. Sales data accurately reflects the relevant properties on a consistent basis. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
42. Sales data should be routinely confirmed or verified by contacting buyers, sellers, or other knowledgeable participants in the transaction. It may be sufficient to confirm single-family sales by audit or exception. <i>Reference:</i> RAT 6.3.1	 A. Sales data is verified by contacting the participants in the transaction. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
43. Mailed sales questionnaires should be as concise as possible and should include a postage-paid return envelope. <i>Reference:</i> RAT 6.3.2	 A. Questionnaires are concise, with a postage-paid return envelope. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
44. Each state and local jurisdiction should have ratio study performance standards. Local standards should be consistent with state standards. In general when local standards are not met, reappraisal or other corrective measures should be undertaken. <i>Reference:</i> RAT 14	 A. The municipality adopted a local ratio standard consistent with IAAO and state standards. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
45. The overall level of assessment of the jurisdiction and each major class of property should be within plus or minus 10% of the jurisdiction's uniform percentage of value. <i>Reference:</i> RAT 14.1 State equalization rates and residential assessment ratios are on <u>www.orps.state.ny.us</u>	 A. The overall level of assessment of the jurisdiction and the residential class (using sales and appraisal data) is within 10% of the stated uniform percentage of value. Agree Disagree Don't know Stated uniform percentage State equalization rate Residential assessment ratio 	

 46. Assuming the existence of sufficient market data, if the uniformity of appraisal is unacceptable, reappraisal should be undertaken regardless of the level of assessment. The Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) for single-family homes and condominiums should be 15.0 or less. In areas of newer or fairly similar residences, it should be 10.0 or less. <i>Reference:</i> RAT 14.2.2 The COD among income-producing properties should be 20.0 or less. (In larger, urban jurisdictions, it should be 15.0 or less.) <i>Reference:</i> RAT 14.2.3 The COD among vacant properties should be 20.0 or less. <i>Reference:</i> RAT 14.2.4 Target COD's for special-purpose real properties involved, market conditions, and the availability of reliable market indicators. <i>Reference:</i> RAT 14.2.6 	A. The NY State standards for COD vary by population density (per square mile). The state standards are: population per COD square mile Standard 100 or less Less than 20% 101 to 400 Less than 17% over 400 Less than 15% Class COD # of sales/appraisals residential	
47. Tax maps should be prepared according to current standards of detail and accuracy.A unique parcel identifier should be displayed for each parcel outlined on the tax map.<i>Reference:</i> MAS 3.2	 A. The assessor's office has up-to-date copies of tax maps. Agree Disagree Don't know B. Each parcel has a unique identifier. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
48. Accurate valuation of real property by any method requires descriptions of land and building characteristics. The assessor should collect and maintain sufficient property characteristics data for classification, valuation and other purposes. <i>Reference:</i> MAS 3.3	 A. The assessment roll has: 	

	 D. Characteristics of improvements are up-to- date and available for all property. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
49. A data collection program must incorporate a comprehensive quality control system with proper checks and audits. <i>Reference:</i> MAS 3.3.2.1	 A. The data collection and data entry programs have adequate checks to insure accuracy. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
 50. Data should be collected in a format designed to facilitate both the collecting of data in the field and entry of the data into the computer system To avoid duplication of effort, the data collection form should be able to serve as the data entry form. <i>Reference:</i> MAS 3.3.2.2, MAS 3.3.3 	 A. The data collection form serves as the data entry form. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
51. A clear, thorough, and precise data collection manual should be developed, updated and maintained. <i>Reference:</i> MAS 3.3.2.3	 A. The assessor's office has access to an up- to-date data collection manual. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
52. Property characteristics data should be continually updated in response to changes brought about by new construction, new parcels, remodeling, demolition and destruction. The assessor should be given copies of building permits to identify properties whose characteristics are likely to change. <i>Reference:</i> MAS 3.3.4	 A. Property characteristics data reflect any change in construction. Agree Disagree Don't know B. The assessor has copies of building permits. Agree Disagree Disagree Don't know 	
53. A system should be developed for making periodic field inspections to identify properties and ensure property characteristics data are complete and accurate. Properties should be revisited to ascertain that assessment records are accurate and current. A physical review at least every four to six years should be conducted assuming new construction activity is previously identified.	 A. Assessor has a plan for periodic field inspections at least every four to six years. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
A reinspection should include partial measurement of the two most complex sides of improvements and a walk around of the improvements to identify additions and deletions. <i>Reference:</i> MAS 3.3.4		

54. A file of sales data must be maintained for sales comparison, development of market-based depreciation schedules and derivation of capitalization rates. <i>Reference:</i> MAS 3.4	 A. The assessor maintains a file of all sales with matching physical characteristics. Agree Disagree Don't know B. Sales inventories are verified within 30 days of the date of the sale. Agree Disagree Disagree Don't know 	
55. Income and expense data must be collected for income-producing property. <i>Reference:</i> MAS 3.5	 A. Assessor collects income and expense data for income producing properties. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
56. Cost and depreciation manuals and schedules should be purchased from a commercial service or created in-house. <i>Reference:</i> MAS 3.6	A. Cost and depreciation manuals and schedules are purchased or created in-house. Agree Disagree Don't know	
57. Mass appraisal models should attempt to represent the market for a specific type of property in a specific area. Geographic stratification is appropriate when the value of property varies significantly among areas. Smaller jurisdictions may find it sufficient to develop a single residential model. Commercial and income- producing properties should be stratified by property type. <i>Reference:</i> MAS 4.1	 A. Mass appraisal models attempt to represent the market for a specific type of property in a specific area. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
58. Mass appraisal programs should be able to adjust sales prices for date of sales. <i>Reference:</i> MAS 4.3	A. Programs allow for sale price and sale date adjustments. Agree Disagree Don't know	
59. Land values should be reviewed annually. <i>Reference:</i> MAS 4.5	 A. Assessor reviews land values annually. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
60. Properties should be physically reviewed and individually reappraised at least every four to six years. <i>Reference:</i> MAS 4.5	 A. All properties were physically reviewed and individually reappraised On the last assessment roll Within the last six years More than 6 years ago 	
61. Properties should be revalued annually either by reappraisal or by trending. <i>Reference:</i> MAS 4.7	A. The year of last completed reassessment:	

 62. All offices should have one staff person familiar with data processing and statistical concepts to coordinate research and development with the data processing staff. Assessors who develop valuation equations based on multiple regression analysis (MRA) or related statistical techniques should employ a staff person (or consultant) with strong statistical training and experience. Unless efficiency or practical concerns dictate otherwise, persons performing the various mass appraisal functions should be employees of the assessor. When the assessment staff does not perform these functions, it is imperative that they be adequately provided by other departments, an oversight agency, a service bureau, a qualified contractor, or another source. Strong lines of communications must be established between the assessor's staff and the designated support groups. <i>Reference:</i> MAS 5.2 	 A. The coordination of data processing and statistical analysis is done by Assessor Assessor's staff member Other city or town staff County director's staff member Other county staff ORPS staff Private vendor B. The statistical expertise resides at: Assessor's staff member Other city or town staff County director's staff member Other city or town staff ORPS staff Private vendor B. The statistical expertise resides at: Assessor Assessor's staff member Other city or town staff County director County director staff member Other county staff ORPS staff Private vendor None C. The person(s) chiefly responsible for mass appraisal functions is: Assessor Staff that report to the assessor Other municipal /county staff not reporting to assessor ORPS staff Vendor or contractor D. Strong lines of communication exist between the assessor and the person responsible for the mass appraisal functions. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
63. The hardware system should be powerful enough to permit computerization of appropriate applications of cost, sales comparison, and income approaches, as well as word processing, data inquiry and activity summaries. <i>Reference:</i> MAS 5.3.1	 A. The hardware system is sufficient to run assessment administration and valuation applications as well as office support applications. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
 64. Assessment administration software should be designed so that it can be easily modified; it should be well documented, at both the appraiser/user and programmer levels. Security measures should exist to prevent unauthorized use and to provide backup in the event of accidental loss or destruction of data. <i>Reference:</i> MAS 5.3.2 	 A. The assessment administration software is: NYS Real Property System (RPS) municipal or county developed obtained from vendor B. The software is easily modifiable. Agree Disagree Don't know Cont'd. 	

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	 C. The software is well documented. Agree Disagree Don't know D. Security measures prevent unauthorized use. Agree Disagree Don't know E. Security measures provide backup capability. Agree Disagree Disagree Disagree Disagree Don't know 	
 65. The assessor's staff must have confidence in the appraisals and be able to explain and defend them. It is helpful to have reports to review to ensure overall consistency as specified by the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice Standards Rule 6-7. The assessor should be prepared to support individual valuations as required, preferably through comparable sales. At a minimum a property record should be produced and the basic approach (cost, sales comparison, or income) be explained. The assessor should be able to produce sales or appraisals of similar properties in order to support (or at least explain) the valuation of the property. The assessor should notify property owners of their valuation in sufficient time for owners to discuss the appraisals with the assessor and appeal the value if they choose. <i>Reference:</i> MAS 5.4.2 	 A. The assessor's staff understands the appraisals and can explain them. Agree Disagree Don't know B. The assessor can support valuations based on comparable sales of similar properties. Agree Disagree Don't know C. Assessor mails notices so that taxpayers have sufficient time to review it. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
 66. The computer-assisted mass appraisal system (cama) selected must be designed and used to evaluate appraisal performance and ensure compliance with laws, regulations, and policies. The assessor must provide leadership and get results by planning, budgeting, organizing and controlling within all social, economic and governmental limits. <i>Reference:</i> MAS 5.5.3 	 A. The cama system evaluates performance and ensures legal compliance. Agree Disagree Don't know B. The budget for the assessor's office for the current fiscal year is: <i>Cont'd.</i> 	

	 C. The current budget reflects a level of expenditures necessary to achieve equity. Agree Disagree Don't know Not applicable-equity achieved D. The current budget reflects a level of expenditures necessary to sustain equity on an annual basis. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
67. A request for proposal (RFP) for assessment services should clearly describe the desired products or services, performance standards, completion dates and any continuing responsibilities of the successful contractor. It should explain briefly the background of the project, relevant legal considerations, time and funding constraints, and project objectives. <i>Reference:</i> CAS 3.1	 A. A RFP for assessment services clearly describes the desired products or services Agree Disagree Don't know 	
68. The RFP should require the bidders to demonstrate expertise, experience, and other qualities affecting the probable success of the project. <i>Reference:</i> CAS 3.2.1	 A. The RFP lists qualifications of bidders. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
69. The RFP should require proposals to identify key individuals to be assigned to the project, along with their qualifications and specific roles. <i>Reference:</i> CAS 3.2.2	 A. The RFP identifies key people and their specific roles. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
70. Proposals submitted in response to an RFP should be evaluated on the basis of responsiveness, the bidder's qualifications, and cost. <i>Reference:</i> CAS 4.1	 A. Proposals are reviewed accordingly to the RFP needs. Agree Disagree Don't know 	
71. The contract should incorporate the salient features of the RFP and of the successful proposal. <i>Reference:</i> CAS 4.2	 A. The contract incorporates the salient features of the RFP. Agree Disagree Don't know 	