

# Act (2010:1767) concerning spatial environmental information

**SFS no.:** 2010:1767

**Ministry/authority:** The Ministry of the Environment

**Issued:** 03/12/2010

**Printed version:** [PDF, without amendments \(Lagrummet\)](#)

**List of amendments:** [SFSR \(Lagrummet\)](#)

**Source:** The Government Offices of Sweden/Lagrummet

## Infrastructure for spatial environmental information

**Section 1** There shall be an infrastructure in Sweden with a coherent system for access to and exchange of spatial environmental information that is in electronic form and is usable for activities and measures that can affect human health or the environment (spatial environmental information).

**Section 2** The Swedish system for spatial environmental information shall be part of the corresponding information system that exists within the European Union.

The Swedish Government appoints an authority that will be responsible for ensuring that the Swedish system is coordinated and coherent with the European Union's system.

**Section 3** The spatial environmental information shall, in terms of places or geographic areas, relate to

1. coordinate-based reference systems for positioning,
2. geographical grid systems,
3. place names and other geographic names,
4. administrative units,
5. addresses,
6. cadastral parcels,
7. infrastructure for transport,
8. catchment areas, drainage basins and other hydrographical elements,
9. protected sites,
10. elevation and depth conditions,
11. land cover,
12. images of the earth's surface (orthoimagery),
13. geological conditions,
14. statistical units,
15. location of buildings,
16. soil composition,
17. land use and water use,
18. the relationship between human health and the environment,
19. utility and governmental services,

20. environmental monitoring facilities,
21. production and industrial facilities and depots,
22. agricultural and aquaculture facilities,
23. population distribution,
24. circumstances that warrant specific management, regulations or reporting,
25. floods, landslides, avalanches, forest fires or other natural risks,
26. atmospheric conditions,
27. meteorological and hydrological conditions,
28. physical conditions of seas and other saltwater bodies of water,
29. areas of relatively homogeneous ecological conditions with common characteristics (biogeographical regions),
30. habitats and biotopes,
31. species distribution,
32. energy resources, or
33. mineral resources.

**Section 4** In this act, information management service refers to a function for electronically searching for, showing or downloading information, electronically converting or processing this information, or electronically linking together different such functions.

### **Responsibility for information**

**Section 5** To the extent stated by regulations in connection with this act, authorities, municipalities and individual bodies that carry out official administration assignments shall participate in the coherent system for spatial environmental information by making such information and information management services available to other parties participating in or using the system (responsibility for information).

In relation to municipalities' responsibility for information, regulations in accordance with the first paragraph may only relate to information that the municipalities are obliged to gather or inform about in accordance with other legislation or regulations that have been announced with the support of other legislation or as a result of Sweden's membership of the European Union.

**Section 6** A party that is responsible for information in accordance with section 5 shall draw up and provide information in electronic form that describes the spatial environmental information and the information management services that relate to the information (metadata).

Metadata shall relate to the contents, origin and topicality of the information and the services, how they can be found and used, and how they are presented and work or are intended to work in the coherent information system.

Metadata shall be coordinated with the information and the services so that it facilitates searching and use.

## **Voluntary participation**

**Section 7** The Government, or an authority designated by the Government, may decide in an individual case that a party who is not responsible for information in accordance with regulations in connection with this act may participate in the coherent system for spatial environmental information.

## **Fees**

**Section 8** The party responsible for information may charge fees for providing spatial environmental information and information management services.

The Government, or an authority designated by the Government, may announce regulations on

1. the grounds for charging these fees, and
2. restrictions on the right to charge fees and other terms and conditions for provision.

A municipality may charge fees in accordance with the grounds determined by the municipality itself, unless otherwise stated in regulations referred to in paragraph 2, point 2.

## **Regulations on the responsibility for information and on cooperation**

**Section 9** The Government may announce regulations on

1. the responsibility of municipalities and individual bodies for information in accordance with section 5 and how this responsibility for information should be allocated between them, and
2. obligations for municipalities and individual bodies that carry out official administration assignments to cooperate with each other and with other participants in the system for spatial environmental information in relation to spatial environmental information, information management services and metadata.

## **Restrictions on the obligations of parties responsible for information**

**Section 10** Provisions on confidentiality in public operations and in certain individual bodies are contained in the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act (2009: 400).

The provisions in section 11, section 12 paragraph two, section 13 and section 14 paragraph two of this act do not apply to such individual bodies as referred to in the first paragraph.

**Section 11** When an individual body referred to in section 5 fulfils its responsibility for information via an information management service that makes it possible to search within metadata about spatial environmental information and information management services electronically, public access to metadata may only be restricted to the extent that access may harm international relations, public security or total defence.

**Section 12** When an authority, a municipality or an individual body referred to in section 5 fulfils its responsibility for information via an information management service that makes it possible to display or download spatial environmental information or metadata electronically, convert or process this information electronically or link together different such functions electronically, public access to spatial environmental information and metadata may be restricted to the extent that access may infringe intellectual rights.

When an individual body referred to in section 5 fulfils its responsibility for information via such information management services as referred to in the first paragraph, public access to spatial environmental information and metadata may also be restricted to the extent that access

1. may harm international relations, public security or total defence,
2. may harm an authority's operations for inspection, control or other supervision, or an authority's opportunities for preventing or taking measures against crimes,
3. relates to commercial or industrial information and giving out this information may be assumed to result in an individual suffering financial loss,
4. relates to personal data and giving out this information may be to the detriment of the individual to which the information relates, if this individual has not given content for the information to be given out,
5. may harm an individual's personal interests, if this individual provided the requested information without being obliged to do so in accordance with legislation or regulations, unless this person gave consent for the information to be given out, or
6. may involve negative consequences for the protection of the environment to which the information refers.

**Section 13** Public access to spatial environmental information and metadata may not be restricted

1. with the support of section 11 or section 12, if it is obvious that the information is of such significance from an environmental point of view that the interests of public knowledge of this information are greater than the interests referred to in section 11 or section 12, or
2. with the support of section 12, paragraph 2, points 3-6, if the information relates to environmental emissions.

**Section 14** When an authority, a municipality or an individual body fulfils an obligation in accordance with regulations in connection with this act to cooperate on spatial environmental information, information management services or metadata, such fulfilment may be restricted in relation to other cooperating authorities, municipalities or bodies if it may harm intellectual rights.

When an individual body fulfils an obligation to cooperate, cooperation may be restricted – over and above that which is stated in the first paragraph in relation to cooperating authorities, municipalities or other bodies – only to the extent that such fulfilment

1. may harm international relations, public security or total defence, or
2. may harm an authority's operations for inspection, control or other supervision, or an authority's opportunities for preventing or taking measures against crimes.

**Section 15** Provisions on

1. processing personal data are contained in the Personal Data Act (1998:204),
2. processing personal data contained in the land registry are contained in the Real Property Register Act (2000:224),
3. requirements for permission for setting up databases containing landscape information and for disseminating maps and other compilations of landscape information are contained in

the Act (1993:1742) on the Protection of Landscape Information,  
4. security protection are contained in the Security Protection Act (1996:627), and  
5. copyright are contained in the Act (1960:729) on Copyright in Literary and Artistic Works.

In relation to processing personal data in accordance with this act, section 2 of the Personal Data Act (1998:204) does not apply.