

Task 1.3 Data Acceptance

Essentially a quality assurance task, the wise modeller will check data bases received from survey agencies to make sure that the data is complete and apparently in reasonable order. This should include all survey control data to be used for survey expansion.

Inputs

Survey data files provided by subcontractor(s).

All other associated survey control data (interviewer counts and questionnaire administration data etc).

Processing

Pre-specify acceptance tests: specifically these must identify all MIC¹ issues.

Install data in data base.

Undertake acceptance tests - these are likely to be principally concerned with:

- verifying the number of interview records;
- verifying that the contents (ie the individual questions) of the interview records are within the expected ranges and contain an acceptable number of non-responses;
- using logic checks to verify the rationality of key questionnaire responses; eg:
 - identify and eliminate ‘home’ to ‘home’ trips,
 - check the relationship between employment status and age,
 - using reported journey times and trip distance estimates from the origin and destination, check that the implied journey speed is compatible with the transport mode.

Outputs

Report documenting acceptance test results and overall conclusions.

¹ MIC: Minimum information content: in designing a survey or in making use of existing data sources, it is good practice to specify those variables in the data which are essential for modelling, distinguishing them from others which are not so important. Missing values for the essential variables will pose problems in modelling and therefore need to be identified and dealt with in advance.