

International Property Measurement Standards: What does it mean for landlords and occupiers

Insights - 03/10/2017

IPMS 3 is the basis of measurement for valuation and the marketing of offices which replaced the 'Net Internal Area' (NIA) basis of measurement from 1 January 2016.

IPMS 3 uses the term 'useable floor area' meaning space for the exclusive use of an occupier.

IPMS 3 reports on:

- Useable floor area (previously NIA)
- Limited floor area (additional areas that need measuring, but don't make up any of the useable floor area used for rent calculation) and
- Office total (total of limited use area plus useable floor area)

Examples of limited floor area that must now be measured include balconies/rooftop terraces, internal structural walls, columns, common walls, walkways, shared circulation areas and areas less than 1.5m in height.

IPMS is mandatory for RICS qualified chartered surveyors, but as a landlord, you can 'opt out' as long as you give a valid reason to your instructing agent in writing.

Whilst the rentalised area shouldn't increase with IPMS 3 because the useable floor area calculations are similar to NIA, I would recommend taking early specialist advice so as to avoid confusion over inclusions and exclusions from floor area calculations.

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Meet the Author



[Jonathan Hughes](#)

Partner

[Jersey](#)

E: jonathan.hughes@ogier.com

T: [+44 1534 514336](tel:+441534514336)

Key Contacts



[Martyn Baudains](#)

Partner

[Guernsey](#)

E: martyn.baudains@ogier.com

T: +44 1481 752217

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