

GIMS DATABASE INSTALLATION

Introduction

The Bureau publishes the **complete** GIMS reference database (REFDB) on each IFIC DVD-ROM. This document explains two ways of using REFDB.

Using GIMS without configuring REFDB

Starting with **version 12.0** of GIMS, the constraints associated with configuring a reference database (REFDB) for GIMS have become less rigid. It is now possible, and indeed recommended, to work without configuring REFDB.

In order to encourage this mode of working, any initial setup of GIMS version 12 will not involve any reference database configuration. However, if you used an old version of GIMS and had an existing REFDB configuration, the latter would be maintained when updating to version 12.

It is still possible to work with REFDB. If you do so, you should refer to subsequent paragraphs for more detailed information on configuration. If not, please take note of the following additional tips.

- No longer defining REFDB means that the base grefdbxxxx.mdb located on the IFIC DVD-ROM has to be selected “manually”. This is already the case with the other databases and software such as SpaceCap or SpaceVal.
- Other software (such as GIBC, Mspace, etc.) depended on the REFDB configuration in order to connect automatically to graphical data. As REFDB is no longer defined, the graphical database which you want these programs to use must be selected “manually”. You already have to do this with the other databases. This also allows you the option of **not** selecting any graphical database, which was not possible before.
- It is important to use the latest version of the software programs that use the graphical data, to ensure their compatibility with this new mode of working.

Using GIMS with REFDB

In introducing the REFDB concept, BR has tried to make the connection to the reference database as user-friendly as possible so that users can start up GIMS and browse the database directly without ascertaining its location (on the DVD-ROM, by default). In spite of this automation of the reference database connection, users should be aware of the two options offered to them as to where REFDB is located.

With the “REFDB Setup” options in GIMS, users can choose either to leave REFDB in the **master folder**, i.e. on the DVD-ROM, or to work with a **local copy** on their PC.

While leaving REFDB on the DVD saves some space on the user’s hard disk and does not require any updating operation, it obliges the user to keep the DVD installed whenever using GIMS.

On the other hand, working with a local copy does not require having the IFIC DVD installed.

It is important to configure the REFDB connection correctly because the automatic REFDB connection applies not only to GIMS but also to other technical software (GIBC and Mspace, for instance) that requires access to GIMS data. This applies only if you use a version of GIMS earlier than version 12.

REFDB configuration when installing GIMS (earlier than version 12)

Once GIMS is installed, the setup program offers the possibility of creating a local REFDB copy and then configuring GIMS to update that local copy automatically whenever a more recent version is detected in the master folder, for example when a newer IFIC DVD-ROM is used.

If you do not wish to let the GIMS installation program copy REFDB locally, it will configure GIMS to connect to REFDB in the master folder located on the IFIC DVD.

REFDB configuration with GIMS

Once GIMS is installed, you can use it to modify the reference database settings by selecting the **REFDB Setup** item in the **Database** menu. This brings up the GIMS Options dialog box, where all the options already mentioned can be edited.

Be careful when modifying the master folder location, as this may have an impact on the automatic update function. Although the master folder can be at any location that you manage yourself, it is supposed to be located on the IFIC DVD or at least in a location that follows the IFIC DVD structure.

REFDB automatic update

Every time GIMS needs to connect to a local REFDB copy, it checks the master folder to ascertain whether a newer version of REFDB is available.

If the master folder is not accessible, which can often happen when it is located on the IFIC DVD, the local copy is considered up to date. If that is not the case, GIMS compares the local and master copies to decide whether an update is required.

The update process then simply replaces the local REFDB copy with the REFDB file in the master folder.

REFDB manual update

Using GIMS also allows the local REFDB copy to be updated manually. To do this, click on **REFDB Setup** in the **Database** menu. Then, in the **REFDB Setup** dialog box, click the **Update Local Copy** button.

If you have any further questions concerning GIMS database or GIMS installation, please contact BR (contact info).
