



The Facts On Fax

BY HARLAND MOFFATT

“FAX”s ARE one of the fastest selling high-tech gadgets in North America today. FAX, short term for facsimile machine, combines the technologies of the computer, the telephone and the photocopier to transmit diagrams and text by telephone.

The operation is relatively simple. First, the sender dials the FAX machine at the receiving end. Then he places his document in his FAX. A scanner reads

Continued from page 4.

substantial increase beyond the estimate.”

Master Clark conceded that the nature of legal work often makes it difficult for a solicitor to meet this obligation “with certainty and precision”.

But he nevertheless emphasized that “because the solicitor has more information, the solicitor has more obligation and must take the initiative in creating as well defined a retainer as the circumstances and an objective standard of competence permit.”

For example, he suggested, explaining to Mr. MacLean the difficulty in controlling fees when a business purchase is financed as his was would have been Mr. Poynton’s “first step in shifting the risk of proceeding from his shoulders to Mr. MacLean’s shoulders.”

Master Clark noted that while Mr. MacLean had been willing to pay \$10,000, in fact he paid without complaint \$12,608.26 and asked for no reduction on assessment.

Concluding that Mr. MacLean considered that a fair bill, Master Clark agreed without awarding costs of the assessment.

(Reasons in *Gardiner, Roberts v. J. Brian MacLean* are available from FULL TEXT. Cite 821-014, 12 pp.)

Copyright 1988, *The Lawyers Weekly*. Reprinted by Permission. ●

the document and then sends it by telephone to the receiving machine. For local transmissions, there are no telephone charges. For long distance transmissions, regular long distance telephone rates apply.

A large number of companies now have FAX machines, including many with whom surveyors deal, e.g. lawyers, architects, developers. It is estimated that approximately 65,000 new machines will be sold in Canada this year, with many of these being purchased by small businesses.

FAX machines come in various makes and models and can be purchased with many different types of enhancing devices such as automatic feeders, automatic paper cutters, contrast controls, autodialers, confidential transmission/reception capabilities, delayed transmission programming (e.g. for night transmission when long distance telephone rates are low), memory reception for out-of-paper conditions, computer enhancements such as speed dialing which is similar to speed dialing on your telephone. You enter frequently used numbers in the machine and then only have to dial one or two numbers to transmit a document.

Although we have not checked with all of the manufacturers, it would appear that a basic FAX machine costs about \$2,000. Most purchasers would probably want some enhancements which would add to this cost.

In addition to office use, FAX machines can also be purchased for use in a car and operated in conjunction with a cellular telephone. We received a quote of approximately \$2,500 for a basic model of a car FAX.

The basic model of the FAX machine transmits a document 8½ inches wide (letter width) and any length. FAX machines that transmit documents 11 inches wide are also readily available. Of course, the width restrictions makes the transmission of large plans impractical.

Another drawback to the machine is that linework is zigzagged by the transmission process, so perfect copies are not received. For example, small numbers such as those appearing in some field notes can be difficult to read. This problem can be overcome, however, by enlarging the page by a photocopier before transmitting.

It is recommended that anyone purchasing or leasing a FAX install a separate dedicated telephone line for the machine. This will allow the FAX to have its own telephone number and will save time and effort for both the sender and receiver.

Bell Canada or your local telephone company will charge for installation of the extra line plus a monthly line rental. As an alternative, your present telephone line can be used, in which case the sender first dials your office and tells you that he has a FAX message to send. You then place your FAX’s receiver in the proper slot on the machine and receive the transmission. This method works on either a single or multi line telephone system. When not in use, your FAX telephone receiver can also be used as a regular telephone (at least on the model which we have) and in fact, could be the only telephone in a small office.

There is no doubt that the facsimile machine is fast becoming essential equipment for even the smallest survey office and may some day be as necessary as the telephone.

In Japan today, even the home market has developed to the extent that people use FAX machines for sending everything from notes to neighbours to wedding invitations!

Our AOLS office now has a FAX; the number is (416) 491-2576. ●

Literature Review INDUSTRIAL SURVEYING BROCHURE

This new 28 page manual describes a wide range of products, including precision levels, conventional and electronic theodolites, autocollimation prisms, translation stages and 3-D remote measurement systems.

The last chapter is devoted to methodology and applications. This manual would be of use to anyone involved in the installation and calibration of precision manufacturing equipment, robotic positioning or measurement of large objects.
Wild Leitz Canada Ltd.