3G Network Closure in New Zealand

Learn what it means for your Trimble solutions

SITECH BuildingPoint ALLTERRA Trimble Authorised Distribution Partner

Introduction

Mobile Network History

How surveying equipment will be affected

FAQ's

Mobile Network History

1980s – 1G

Supporting real-time voice calls at speeds of 2.4Kbps, based on analogue signals.

1990s – 2G

A digital network that introduced many features still used today such as encryption, internet access, SMS, roaming and caller ID.

2000s – 3G

Introduction of UMTS technology allowing for faster data transfers, emails, better encryption & cloud services.

2010s – 4G

Initially more than double the speed of 3G, 4G is now approaching 20 times faster speeds and allowing for streaming.

2020 and beyond – 5G

5G promises <1ms latency, seamless data transmissions and speeds up to 2.5Gbps

The timing of the 3G closure in New Zealand aligns with the closure of previous networks. The difference this time is there are so many more devices reliant on it.

Shutdown Dates

Spark
Late 2025

One NZ
December 2025

2degrees
Late 2025

Unaffected Equipment - Total Stations

Trimble total stations will **NOT** be affected by the closure. Connections via Bluetooth or UHF radio will continue to work, an internet connection is not required for total station surveys.

Unaffected Equipment - Scanners

Trimble laser scanners will **NOT** be affected by the closure. Connections via wi-fi will continue to work, an internet connection is not required for laser scanning.

Equipment – GNSS

R12 – Internal 3G modem
The R12 may be affected if a SIM card is installed in the receiver. The SIM card can instead be installed into a 4G or 5G controller *without* the requirement to update the receiver.

R780 – No internal modem
Not affected by the closure

R2/R580 – No internal modem
Not affected by the closure

R750 – Internal 4G modem
Not affected by the closure

Machine Control Gateway Device

SNM940

SNM940 has an internal 3G modem that won't be able to connect to the internet after the shutdown even with a SIM card. If you purchased your machine system from SITECH NZ prior to December 2017, then the kit may have included an SNM940.

SNM941

Not affected by the Closure. If you can’t access the modem on your machine, you can check the color.

Affected Equipment – Data Collectors

TSC3 – Internal 3G modem

Released in 2011, the TSC3 has an internal 3G modem that won't be able to connect to the internet after the shutdown even with a SIM card. This will mostly affect GNSS surveys using VRS services or Trimble Connect data workflows (or other remote data transfer solutions). The shutdown does **not** affect the connection between the instrument and controller, just the downloading of position correction information and internet connectivity

The shutdown will **not** affect:

- Trimble field software running on the controller
- Radio connections to total stations or other equipment
- Bluetooth connections to other equipment

Affected Equipment – Data Collectors

YUMA 2 – Internal 3G modem

Released in 2012, the YUMA 2 has an internal 3G modem that won't be able to connect to the internet after the shutdown even with a SIM card. This will mostly affect GNSS surveys using VRS services or Trimble Connect data workflows (or other remote data transfer solutions). The shutdown does **not** affect the connection between the instrument and controller, just the downloading of position correction information and internet connectivity.

The shutdown will **not** affect:

- Trimble field software running on the controller
- Radio connections to total stations or other equipment
- Bluetooth connections to other equipment

Affected Equipment – Data Collectors

TSC3 or YUMA2 or equivalent – Time to upgrade?

The TSC3 has had over 10 years at the forefront of the surveying industry in New Zealand.

It was designated for end-of-life in 2021 and now replacement parts are sparse or no-longer available. We still see them sacrificed for the survival of others.

Trimble Access field software on the TSC3 stops at Version 2017, there are over 8 years of feature updates and tools outside of the TSC3's capability.

In comparison, the TSC3 was released in the same year as:

- iPhone 4S
- Samsung Galaxy S2

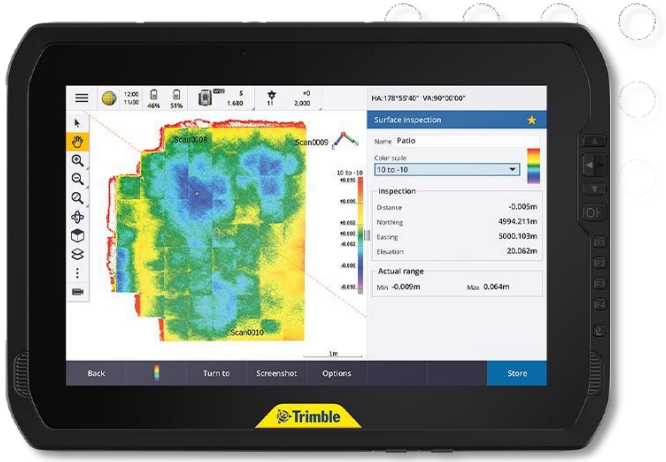
4G Data Collectors

TSC5 & TSC7

Modern data collectors to get back into the latest technology:

- Android OS
- 4G internal modem
- Latest version of Trimble field software

4G Data Collectors



T100 & T7 Tablets

Modern data collectors to get back onto the latest technology:

- Android OS
- 4G internal modem
- Latest version of Trimble field software

5G Data Collectors

TDC6 Handheld

Modern data collectors to get back onto the latest technology:

- Releasing in 2024
- Android OS
- 5G internal modem
- Latest version of Trimble field software

FAQ's

Do I NEED to upgrade all my equipment?

No, if there is no internet connection required for your equipment setup then it will continue to work as normal. If there is an internet connection required, the part with the 3G modem must be upgraded or the SIM moved to a compatible 4G device.

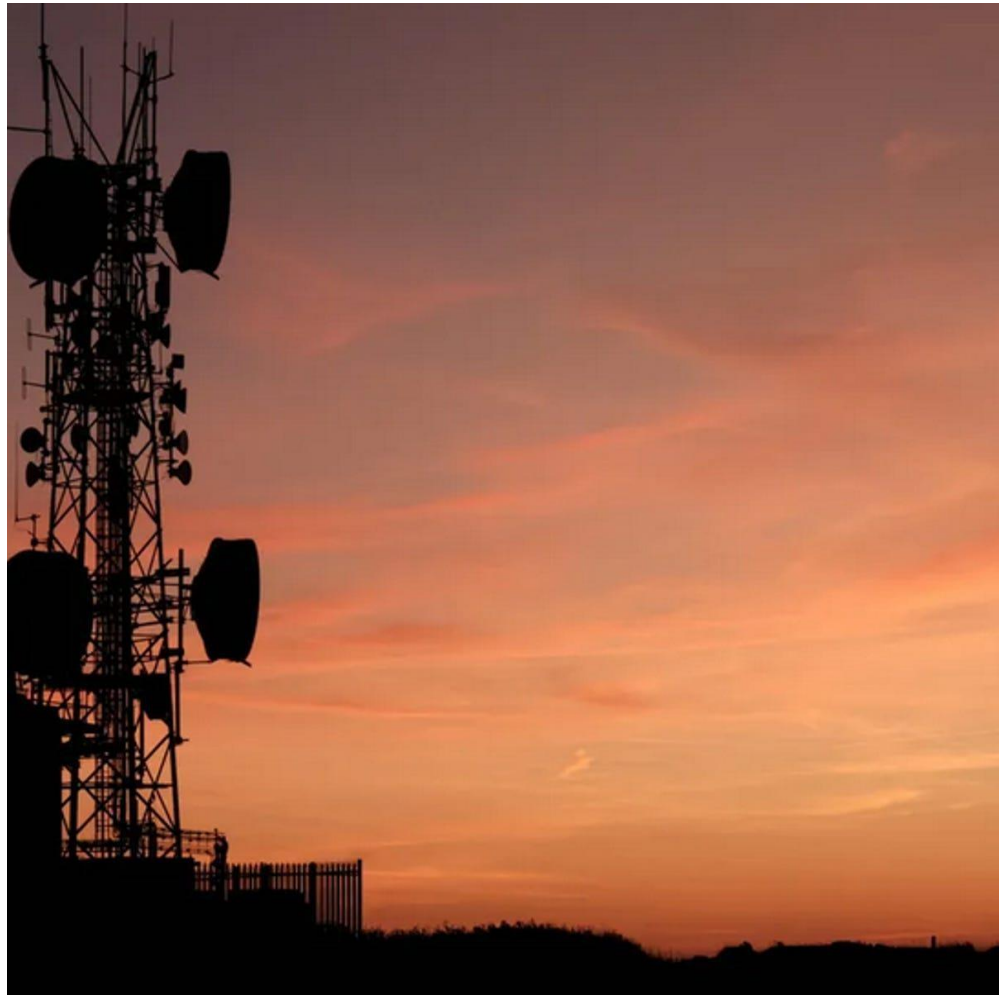
Can I hotspot the TSC3 to my phone?

Not likely, as the technology gap between mobile hotspot networks and older devices grows the compatibility reaches an end point.

Security protocols on modern phones are too advanced for older controllers and will not connect. It may work with some model phones for the time being.

What happens to my current data plan if I upgrade?

Nothing, the SIM card is moved across and the new controller should connect. SIM sizing is the main issue, your provider may upgrade your SIM free of charge. You may need to confirm your SIM/plan is 4G/5G ready.



FAQ's

Can I skip 4G altogether?
Yes, if you upgrade to a 5G compatible device. You may need to confirm your SIM/plan is 5G ready.

If I don't use the internet on my 3G equipment, do I need to transition?
No, but software advancements may drive reconsideration. The older technology gets the less likely it can be repaired, so planning an equipment transition over a period will be less stressful than waiting for an incident that leaves you down on equipment.

What are the key benefits of transitioning?

- Latest field software with years of efficiency improvements that may help towards the upgrade costs.
- More powerful hardware and operating systems, compatibility with other modern devices and services (cloud storage)
- Future proof technology for at least the next decade
- Improved technical support – Teamviewer, software emulators, etc.

Contact Us

Please contact our team of specialist for further information required

W :allterra.co.nz
P :0800 2558 372
E :sales@allterra.co.nz

W :sitechnz.co.nz
P :0800 474 8324
E :sales@sitechnz.co.nz