



FEMA

W-08034

June 3, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: Write Your Own (WYO) Principal Coordinators
and the NFIP Servicing Agent

FROM: WYO Clearinghouse

SUBJECT: Supplemental Pages for the May 1, 2008, *Flood Insurance Manual*

In response to important underwriting guidance provided in several WYO Clearinghouse bulletins issued last month, FEMA has prepared supplemental changes to the May 1, 2008, reissue of the *Flood Insurance Manual*. The affected pages are attached, along with related table of contents and index pages and their backups. Following is a description of the changes.

- WYO Clearinghouse Bulletin W-08021, dated April 16, directed WYO companies and the NFIP Servicing Agent to use the most hazardous flood zone for rating when presented with two different flood zones, unless the building qualifies for the grandfathering rule. Pages GR 13 and RATE 17 now include a new paragraph on flood zone discrepancies.
- WYO Clearinghouse Bulletin W-08025, dated April 25, 2008, clarified that buildings with subgrade crawlspaces are eligible for the community's CRS discount provided that they have a letter from a community official certifying that the subgrade crawlspace is built in compliance with the NFIP requirements for crawlspace construction. Pages APP 6 and CRS 1 now reflect this guidance. In addition, APP 6 includes an appropriate certification statement for the community official letter.
- WYO Clearinghouse Bulletin, W-08027, dated April 30, 2008, stated that the *Flood Insurance Manual* would be updated to reflect clarified Obstruction Type descriptions. Pages APP 6 and CRS 1 now reflect this clarification as it relates to exceptions for elimination of Community Rating System (CRS) discounts.
- In addition, page CRS 3 has been updated to correct a community status change.

Please contact your WYO Business Analyst if you have any questions.

Attachment

cc: Vendors, IBHS, FIPNC, Government Technical Representative
Suggested Routing: Accounting, Claims, Data Processing, Marketing, Underwriting

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E. Different Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) Reported

When the BFE shown on a Flood Zone Determination Company's form is different than the BFE shown on the property owner's Elevation Certificate, the BFE shown on the Elevation Certificate must be used to rate the policy.

F. Flood Zone Discrepancies

When presented with two different flood zones, use the more hazardous flood zone for rating unless the building qualifies for the grandfathering rule (see XIV.C. on page RATE 21).

XI. MISCELLANEOUS RULES

A. Policy Term

The policy term available is 1 year for both NFIP Direct business policies and policies written through WYO Companies.

B. Application Submission

Flood insurance applications and presentment of premium must be mailed promptly to the NFIP. The date of receipt of premium for the NFIP insurer is determined by either the date received at its offices or the date of certified mail.

In the context of submission of applications, endorsements, and premiums to the NFIP, the term "certified mail" has been broadened to include not only the U.S. Postal Service but also certain third-party delivery services. For details, see the paragraph following VIII.B.2. on page GR 8.

Producers are encouraged to submit flood insurance applications by certified mail. Certified mail ensures the earliest possible effective date if the application and premium are received by the NFIP insurer more than 10 days from the application date. The date of certification becomes the date of receipt at the NFIP.

C. Delivery of the Policy

The producer is responsible for delivering the declarations page and the policy contract of a new policy to the insured and, if appropriate, to the lender. Renewal policy documentation is sent directly to the insured.

D. Assignment

A property owner's flood insurance building policy may be assigned in writing to a purchaser of the insured property upon transfer of title without the written consent of the NFIP.

Policies on buildings in the course of construction and policies insuring contents only may not be assigned.

E. Producers' Commissions (Direct Business Only)

The earned commission may be paid only to property or casualty insurance producers duly licensed by a state insurance regulatory authority. It shall not be less than \$10 and is computed for both new and renewal policies as follows: Based on the Total Prepaid Amount (less the Federal Policy Fee) for the policy term, the commission will be 15 percent of the first \$2,000 of annualized premium and 5 percent on the excess of \$2,000.

Calculated commissions for mid-term endorsements and cancellation transactions will be based upon the same commission percentage that was paid at the policy term's inception.

Commissions for all Scheduled Building Policies are computed as though each building and contents policy was separately written.

For calculation of commission on an RCBAP, see the CONDO section.

F. Contract Agent Rule

A "Contract Agent" is an employee of a WYO Company, or an agent under written contract with a WYO Company, empowered to act on the company's behalf and with authority to advise an applicant for flood insurance that the company will accept the risk. The effective date for a policy written through a Contract Agent has a waiting period that begins on the agent's or employee's receipt of the premium and completion of the application.

An agent under written contract to a WYO Company is not a Contract Agent if the WYO Company reserves the right to reject the risk. The effective date for a policy *not* written through a Contract Agent has a waiting period that begins on the WYO Company's receipt of the premium and completed application.

To establish a Contract Agent relationship acceptable to the NFIP, the WYO Company must include the stipulations above in its written contract with the agent or employee.

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substantial improvement started or the building permit date.

If the building was substantially damaged, enter the actual month, day, and year that substantial damage occurred. Substantial improvement includes buildings that have incurred "substantial damage" regardless of the actual repair work performed. The agent must obtain and submit a statement from a community official before the building can be considered substantially damaged.

If the policy is for a manufactured (mobile) home or travel trailer located outside a manufactured (mobile) home park or subdivision, enter the date of permanent placement of the manufactured (mobile) home. See the Rating section of this manual for rules for manufactured (mobile) homes located in manufactured (mobile) home parks and subdivisions.

Compare the date of construction or substantial improvement with the effective date of the initial FIRM to determine if the building was constructed Pre- or Post- the effective date of the initial FIRM.

- Substantial Improvement Exception

For new applications, renewal applications, and endorsements when making a *rating correction concerning a substantial improvement* to a Pre-FIRM building where the improvement is an addition to the building and it meets the conditions of Pre-FIRM construction, found on pages RATE 15-16 of this manual, the producer should complete the Construction Data section of the Application as follows:

- a. Enter the date of construction for the Pre-FIRM part of the building (not the date of construction of the addition). This date will be shown as the construction date on the declarations page.
- b. Do not respond to the question IS BUILDING POST-FIRM CONSTRUCTION? Instead, complete the top part of this section as follows:

"Substantial Improvement but continues to be Pre-FIRM."

- c. Supply the elevation data for the ADDITION.

- d. Complete the remainder of both parts of the Construction Data section in the usual manner.

If a policyholder elects to use the normal Post-FIRM rating for substantial improvement, the producer must complete Part 2 of the Application as indicated.

2. Elevation Information

Elevation information must be completed in the second part of the Construction Data section.

- Post-FIRM Construction

Check YES if the building is Post-FIRM construction or substantial improvement; otherwise, check NO.

- Building Diagram Number and Lowest Adjacent Grade

Provide the building diagram number and lowest adjacent grade from the Elevation Certificate (EC).

NOTE: Elevation Certificates certified on or after January 1, 2007, must be submitted on the new EC form. The EC must meet all of the photograph requirements that are described on pages CERT 1-2 of this manual. *An EC submitted without the required photographs is not considered valid for rating.*

The lowest adjacent grade is not required for buildings without estimated BFE located in AO and unnumbered A and V zones. Policies rated using the Floodproofing Certificate do not require either the lowest adjacent grade or the diagram number.

In communities that participate in the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS), building elevation information may be available from the community office in charge of building permits or floodplain management.

- Elevation Information for Buildings in the Course of Construction

When the building is in the course of construction, the elevation information provided by the surveyor on the EC must be based on the proposed architectural plans. The NFIP requires the agent to describe and rate the structure based on the proposed plans. Building photographs are not required.

Buildings in the course of construction are to be rated the same as completed construction. A renewal application and a new EC with required building photographs must be submitted at renewal time. For example, if the building is elevated and the proposed plans show an enclosure, the building must be described as elevated with an enclosure. The only exception is when an EC was prepared in the course of construction, and the surveyor was able to provide all as-built elevation information required on the EC.

- Lowest Floor Elevation and Related Items

Use the eight building diagrams on pages CERT 18-19 to determine the correct lowest floor. See pages LFG 1-7 for information about determining the lowest floor for rating. When entering elevation data, **drop hundredths of a foot** and show only tenths of a foot. For example, if the elevation difference is 10.49', enter 10.4'; do not round up to 10.5'.

- Wave Height Adjustment

In Zones V, V1-V30, and VE, if NO is checked for the question about Effects of Wave Action, refer to pages RATE 30-31 for guidelines for FIRMS with wave heights.

- Floodproofing

If YES is checked for Floodproofed and the FIRM zone entered in the Community section of the Application is V, V1-V30, or VE, the Application must be submitted to the NFIP for underwriting and rating. For all other zones, refer to pages RATE 31-32 for elevation difference and rating guidelines.

- Elevation Certification

Enter the elevation certification date for all new business applications.

M. Coverage and Rating

Check desired coverage against the "Amount of Insurance Available" table on page RATE 1. Then enter the limits, indicate the rates and rate type, and add additional charges/credits, i.e., deductible reduction/increase, ICC Premium, CRS Premium Discount, Probation Surcharge (if any), and Federal Policy Fee. Calculate the Total Prepaid Amount.

Effective May 1, 2008, the Community Rating System (CRS) discount is not available on NFIP policies for Post-FIRM structures located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) where the lowest floor elevation used for rating is at least 1 foot or more below the Base Flood Elevation (BFE), with the exception of (1) Post-FIRM V-Zone buildings with unfinished breakaway wall enclosures and machinery or equipment at or above the BFE, and (2) subgrade crawl spaces with certification.

The subgrade crawl space exception must be certified by a community official letter containing the following statement:

"I certify that the building located at _____ [address] has a crawl space that was built in compliance with the NFIP requirements for crawl space construction as outlined in FEMA Technical Bulletin 11-01, 'Crawlspace Construction for Buildings Located in Special Flood Hazard Areas.'"

N. Signature

The producer must sign the Application and is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the information provided on it. Enter the date of application (month/day/year). The waiting period is added to this date to determine the policy effective date of the policy listed in the Policy Term section. A check or money order for the Total Prepaid Amount, payable to the NFIP, must accompany the application.

Electronic transactions are permitted if the business process includes authentication of signatures and dates of receipt of premium. WYO companies are responsible for determining the business practices and transaction authentication methods they will use to ensure the security and integrity of such transactions.

A credit card payment by VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, or Diners Club will also be acceptable if a disclaimer form, signed by the insured, is submitted with the Flood Insurance Application. The disclaimer will state that cancellation of a policy due to a billing dispute will be permitted only for a billing error or fraud. If the credit card information is taken over the telephone by the producer, the producer may sign the authorization form on behalf of the payor only after having read the disclaimer to the payor.

V. COMPLETING PART 2 OF THE FLOOD INSURANCE APPLICATION FORM

After completing Part 1 of the Flood Insurance Application, the producer must complete all relevant items in Part 2 of the Application for the following risks:

- Post-FIRM construction located in Zones A1-A30, AE, AH, AO, A, V1-V30, VE, and V.
- Pre-FIRM construction using optional Post-FIRM rating located in Zones A1-A30, AE, AH, AO, A, V1-V30, VE, and V.

Part 2 of the Application collects information about risk factors affecting the building, occupancy information, and elevation data relative to the ground level. A completed Elevation Certificate must be attached to the Application before sending it to the NFIP.

To complete Part 2 of the Application, the producer must:

- Obtain all necessary information from the applicant. Then select the building diagram that best illustrates the applicant's building. These diagrams are shown in the Elevation Certificate and Instructions, which are reproduced in the Special Certifications section of this manual.
- Transcribe the information from the applicant and Elevation Certificate onto Part 2 of the Application. For renewal applications, enter the policy number in the space at the top of the form. Be sure to have the applicant or the applicant's representative sign and date the bottom of the form.

The applicant or the applicant's representative must complete all numbered sections of the form, check all appropriate boxes, provide all information, and respond to all YES/NO questions that are applicable to the building.

(For example, Section II should be completed only for Elevated Buildings.)

SECTION I—ALL BUILDING TYPES

1. The number of the building diagram selected is entered here. Use the diagrams shown at the end of the Elevation Certificate and Instructions.
- 2.-4. The agent may obtain the requested elevation information from Section C of the Elevation Certificate, or the applicant or the applicant's representative may provide this information. If the applicant or the applicant's representative furnishes these measurements, they must be taken with a ruler or tape measure. All measurements are rounded to the nearest foot using the ground (grade) immediately next to the building.

NOTE: The terms "grade" and "ground" are used interchangeably. The intent is that man-made alterations of the grade, such as a declining driveway into a building or a dugout entrance to a basement, do not represent ground level.

5. If "OTHER" is checked in Question 5b, a brief description of the source must be provided.
6. If the answer to Question 6a is NO, Question 6b should be disregarded.
7. If the answer to Question 7a is NO, Questions 7b, 7c, 7d, and 7e should be ignored.

SECTION II—ELEVATED BUILDINGS

If the building is a manufactured (mobile) home/travel trailer that has been elevated, complete this section in addition to Sections I and III.

8. Check the type of foundation used for the building.
9. If YES is checked, check the appropriate item(s).
10. **Refer to page LFG 1** to verify that the area below the elevated floor satisfies the definition of an enclosed area.

If Question 10a is NO, do not answer Questions 10b through 10f.

In Question 10b, enter the size of the area in square feet.

If Question 10c is YES, check the single most appropriate of boxes 1-4.

In Question 10d, check YES if the area is constructed with openings (excluding doors), within 1 foot of adjacent grade, to allow the passage of flood waters. Enter the number of openings and their total area in square inches.

If Question 10e is YES, provide a description.

In Question 10f, check YES if the enclosed area has more than 20 linear feet of finished wall, paneling, etc.; otherwise, check NO.

SECTION III—MANUFACTURED (MOBILE) HOMES/TRAVEL TRAILERS

11. Fill in the make, year of manufacture, model number, and serial number.
12. Enter the dimensions, excluding any permanent addition or extension to the manufactured (mobile) home or travel trailer.
13. Check YES if permanent additions or extensions are present; otherwise, check NO. If YES, enter dimensions.
14. If OTHER is checked, describe the anchoring system.
15. Check the appropriate box for how the manufactured (mobile) home was installed.
16. Check YES if the manufactured (mobile) home is located in a manufactured (mobile) home park or subdivision; otherwise, check NO.

VI. MAILING INSTRUCTIONS

After completing all sections on the Application, attach all required certifications or other documents to the applicant's check, draft, or money order, payable to the NFIP for the Total Prepaid Amount.

A credit card payment by VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, or Diners Club will also be acceptable if a disclaimer form, signed by the insured, is submitted with the Flood Insurance Application. The disclaimer will state that cancellation of a policy due to a billing dispute will be permitted only for a billing error or

fraud. If the credit card information is taken over the telephone by the producer, the producer may sign the authorization form on behalf of the payor only after having read the disclaimer to the payor.

Mail the original copy of the Application with the Total Prepaid Amount to the NFIP. Distribute copies of the Application to the agency file, the applicant, and the mortgagee. A copy of the Application and a copy of the premium payment are sufficient to satisfy the mortgagee's proof-of-purchase requirements.

After receipt of the Application and total prepaid amount, the NFIP will process the Application and issue the policy. The policy contract and declarations page will be mailed to the insured. Copies of the declaration page will be mailed to the producer and mortgagee(s).

VII. HANDLING OF INCOMPLETE OR INCORRECT APPLICATIONS

If an Application is not complete, or if the information presented on the Application is not correct, the Application will not be processed but will be placed in a pending file until the completed or corrected information is provided by the producer. For the NFIP direct business, if the missing information is not provided, a policy will be issued using Tentative Rates. If insufficient information is available to tentatively rate the policy, the flood insurance will be rejected and the premium remittance refunded.

For NFIP direct business, in the case of incomplete applications, the NFIP Servicing Agent will send the producer a transmittal document and a letter requesting the incomplete or missing information. Copies of this letter will be provided to the named insured and mortgagee(s). The producer should provide the additional or corrected information to the NFIP Servicing Agent along with the transmittal document.

Since coverage cannot be conferred in excess of the coverage that can be purchased for the amount presented (received by the NFIP), it is important that underpayment errors be corrected immediately. In the case of an underpayment, when both building and contents coverage have been requested, the coverage reduction will be prorated between building and contents in accordance with NFIP rules. The ratio of building to contents coverage for the full requested coverage will be used to determine the portion of the submitted premium available to purchase building and contents coverage.

9. The ICC premium is not subject to deductible factors. First calculate the deductible amount, then add in the ICC premium.
10. Apply CRS discount, if applicable.
11. Add \$50.00 Probation Surcharge if building is located in a community on probation.
12. Add Federal Policy Fee.

VII. KEY POINTS FOR RATING

A. Basic Limits and Additional Limits

For rating purposes in the Regular Program, separate rates have been established for the Basic Limits and the Additional Limits.

B. Whole Dollars

NFIP accepts premium only in WHOLE DOLLARS. If the discount for an optional deductible does not result in a whole dollar premium, round up if 50¢ or more; round down if less. ALWAYS SUBMIT GROSS PREMIUM.

C. Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) Premium

Total Prepaid Amount will include ICC premium. The ICC premium is not subject to deductible factors, but the CRS discount will apply.

D. Federal Policy Fee

A Federal Policy Fee shall be charged for all new and renewal policies, including the Preferred Risk Policy. This fee is fully earned on the effective date of the policy, except as indicated in the Cancellation/Nullification Section. This fee is not subject to earned commissions and, as such, is not considered part of the Total Prepaid Premium. The Federal Policy Fee must, however, be added to the Total Prepaid Premium in order to figure the Total Prepaid Amount.

Under the Residential Condominium Building Association Policy, the Federal Policy Fee is based on the number of units (see CONDO Section).

E. Buildings in More Than One Flood Zone

Buildings, not the land, located in more than one zone must be rated using the more hazardous zone.

This condition applies even though the portion of the building located in the more hazardous zone

may not be covered under the SFIP, such as a deck.

F. Different Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) Reported

When the BFE shown on a Flood Zone Determination Company's form is different than the BFE shown on the property owner's Elevation Certificate, the BFE shown on the Elevation Certificate must be used to rate the policy.

G. Flood Zone Discrepancies

When presented with two different flood zones, use the more hazardous flood zone for rating unless the building qualifies for the grandfathering rule (see XIV.C. on page RATE 21).

H. Mortgagee on Policy—Higher Deductible Requested

When a mortgagee is listed on the policy, their WRITTEN CONSENT should be secured before requesting a deductible higher than the applicable SFIP deductible.

VIII. REGULAR PROGRAM, POST-FIRM ELEVATION-RATED RISKS

A. Elevation Difference

The elevation difference is the difference between the lowest floor used for rating and the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). The elevation difference must be determined if the building is Post-FIRM located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and within a Regular Program community.

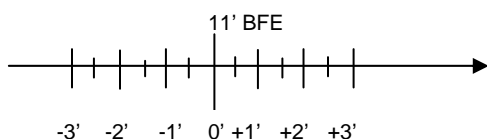
Refer to the Lowest Floor Guide section for a guide to determining the lowest floor. Note that, in Puerto Rico, elevations are based on meters rather than feet. Before rating the flood insurance premium, the agent must convert the meter elevations into feet.

For rating purposes, the elevation difference is the difference, measured in feet, between the lowest floor elevation of the building to be rated, and the BFE for that zone. The elevation difference can be a number of feet above (+) or below (-) the BFE.

If the BFE and/or the lowest floor elevation is shown in tenths (e.g., 10.5'), the agent must apply the rounding rule to the difference between the BFE and the lowest-floor-for-rating elevation. If the difference is negative, the final figure is

rounded up from .5. If the difference is positive, the final figure is rounded up from .5. Always round to the higher elevation. For example, -3' is higher than -3.5' and +4' is higher than +3.5'.

Rounding Rule Example:



$$10.5' \text{ LF} - 11.0' \text{ BFE} = -0.5'$$

Because the difference is negative, it is rounded up to 0'.

$$11.5' \text{ LF} - 11.0' \text{ BFE} = +0.5'$$

Because the difference is positive, it is rounded up to 1.0'.

B. Examples

Examples to illustrate how to determine the elevation difference are provided below.

1. Zones A1-A30, AE, AR, AR Dual Zones, Post-'81 V1-V30, VE, and A (With Estimated BFE)

Lowest Floor Elevation - Base Flood Elevation (BFE) = Elevation Difference

Examples:

- a. Lowest Floor Elevation (+10') - BFE (+6') = Elevation Difference of (+4').
- b. Lowest Floor Elevation (+8.3') - BFE (+6.0') = Elevation Difference of (+2.3'); therefore, (+2.3') is rounded down to (+2.0').
- c. Lowest Floor Elevation (+12.4') - BFE (+8.8') = Elevation Difference of (+3.6'); therefore, (+3.6') is rounded up to (+4.0').
- d. Lowest Floor Elevation (+9.5') - BFE (+12.0') = Elevation Difference of (-2.5'); therefore, (-2.5') is rounded down to (-2').

2. Zone AH

Lowest Floor Elevation - Base Flood Elevation (BFE) = Elevation Difference

Examples:

- a. Lowest Floor Elevation (+4') - BFE (+2') = (+2'); use With Certification of Compliance rates.
- b. Lowest Floor Elevation (+6') - BFE (+8') = (-2'); use Without Certification of Compliance rates.
- c. Lowest Floor Elevation (+3.9') - BFE (+4') = (0'); use With Certification of Compliance rates.

3. Zone AO

In AO zones, the difference between the top of the bottom floor and the highest adjacent grade is the lowest floor elevation used for rating. If the lowest floor elevation is equal to or greater than the Base Flood Depth printed on the FIRM, use With Certification of Compliance rate. If the elevation difference is less than the Base Flood Depth, use Without Certification of Compliance rates. When no Base Flood Depth is printed on the FIRM, a depth of 2 feet must be used for rating purposes.

Examples:

- a. Lowest Floor Elevation (distance between the top of the bottom floor and the highest adjacent grade) (+2.9') - Base Flood Depth (3') = (0'); use With Certification of Compliance rates.
- b. Lowest Floor Elevation (0') - Base Flood Depth (+1') = (-1'); use Without Certification of Compliance rates.
- c. Lowest Floor Elevation (+2') - (+2') (no published Base Flood Depth) = (0'); use With Certification of Compliance rates.

4. Zone A (With No Estimated BFE)

In Zone A where there is no established BFE, the difference between the top of the bottom floor and the highest adjacent grade is the lowest floor elevation used for rating.

Examples:

- a. Lowest Floor Elevation (distance between the top of the bottom floor and the highest adjacent grade) (+3') = (+3') for rating purposes (use No Estimated BFE rate table). The top of the bottom floor is 3' above the highest adjacent grade.

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary program for NFIP-participating communities. (See CRS community listing on following pages.) The goals of the CRS are to reduce flood losses, to facilitate accurate insurance rating, and to promote the awareness of flood insurance.

The CRS has been developed to provide incentives in the form of premium discounts for communities to go beyond the minimum floodplain management requirements to develop extra measures to provide protection from flooding.

II. ELIGIBILITY

For a community to be eligible, the community must be in full compliance with the NFIP and be in the Regular phase of the program.

The following categories are **not** eligible for CRS premium discounts:

- Emergency Program communities
- Preferred Risk Policies
- Mortgage Portfolio Protection Program policies
- Post-FIRM structures located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) where the lowest floor elevation used for rating is at least 1 foot or more below the Base Flood Elevation (BFE), with the exception of Post-FIRM V-Zone buildings with unfinished breakaway wall enclosures and machinery or equipment at or above the BFE
- Subgrade crawl spaces without certification from a community official (see IV.M., page APP 6).

III. CLASSIFICATIONS AND DISCOUNTS

All communities start out with a Class 10 rating (which provides no discount). There are 10 CRS classes: Class 1 requires the most credit points and gives the greatest premium discount; Class 10 identifies a community that does not apply for the CRS, or does not obtain a minimum number of credit points and receives no discount. There are 18 activities recognized as measures for eliminating exposure to floods. Credit points are

assigned to each activity. The activities are organized under four main categories: Public Information, Mapping and Regulation, Flood Damage Reduction, and Flood Preparedness. Once a community applies to the appropriate FEMA region for the CRS program and its implementation is verified, FEMA sets the CRS classification based upon the credit points. This classification determines the premium discount for policyholders. Premium discounts ranging from 5 percent to a maximum of 45 percent will be applied to every policy written in a community as recognition of the floodplain management activities instituted.

The table below shows premium discounts for CRS Classes 1-10 within different flood zones.

IV. CRS ACTIVITIES THAT CAN DIRECTLY BENEFIT INSURANCE AGENTS

Certain activities credited under the CRS provide direct benefit to agents writing flood insurance.

All CRS communities must maintain completed FEMA elevation and floodproofing certificates for all new and substantially improved construction in the Special Flood Hazard Area after the date of application for CRS classification. These certificates must be available upon request. Therefore, in writing a policy, an agent should be able to get these certificates from any CRS community. In addition, some CRS communities receive credit for having completed certificates for Post-FIRM buildings constructed prior to the CRS application date. If they do receive this credit, then these certificates should also be available to agents writing flood insurance. The community may charge a fee for copying certificates.

Many CRS communities receive credit for providing inquirers with information from the community's FIRM. This includes a property's flood risk zone and the Base Flood Elevation. The service must be publicized once a year. If a community is receiving this credit, then agents should be able to use the service. A fee may be charged for the service.

CRS PREMIUM DISCOUNTS

Class	Discount	Class	Discount
1	45%	6	20%
2	40%	7	15%
3	35%	8	10%
4	30%	9	5%
5	25%	10	---
SFHA (Zones A, AE, A1-A30, V, V1-V30, AO, and AH): Discount varies depending on class.			
SFHA (Zones A99, AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AR/A1-A30, AR/AH, and AR/AO): 10% discount for Classes 1-6; 5% discount for Classes 7-9.*			
Non-SFHA (Zones B, C, X, D): 10% discount for Classes 1-6; 5% discount for Classes 7-9.			

*In determining CRS Premium Discounts, all AR and A99 zones are treated as non-SFHAs.

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM ELIGIBLE COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY NUMBER	COMMUNITY NAME	CRS ENTRY DATE	CURRENT EFFECTIVE DATE	CURRENT CLASS	% DISCOUNT FOR SFHA ¹	% DISCOUNT FOR NON-SFHA ²	STATUS ³
Alabama							
010146	Athens, City of	10/1/91	10/1/98	10	0	0	R
010071	Atmore, City of	05/1/02	05/1/02	8	10	5	C
015000	Baldwin County	10/1/95	05/1/06	8	10	5	C
010116	Birmingham, City of	10/1/94	10/1/05	6	20	10	C
010418	Dauphin Island, Town of	04/1/01	04/1/01	8	10	5	C
010176	Decatur, City of	10/1/91	10/1/05	10	0	0	R
015005	Gulf Shores, Town of	10/1/93	10/1/93	9	5	5	C
015006	Homewood, City of	10/1/01	10/1/01	9	5	5	C
010123	Hoover, City of	10/1/91	10/1/91	9	5	5	C
010153	Huntsville, City of	10/1/91	05/1/03	7	15	5	C
015007	Mobile, City of	10/1/92	10/1/93	10	0	0	R
015011	Orange Beach, City of	10/1/91	10/1/07	7	15	5	C
010189	Pell City, City of	10/1/92	10/1/92	9	5	5	C
010002	Prattville, City of	10/1/91	05/1/08	8	10	5	C
010070	Wetumpka, City of	10/1/91	10/1/91	9	5	5	C
Alaska							
020005	Anchorage, Municipality of	10/1/95	10/1/04	7	15	5	C
020012	Kenai Peninsula, Borough of	04/1/00	04/1/00	8	10	5	C
020003	Ketchikan, Borough of	10/1/05	10/1/05	9	5	5	C
020069	Nome, City of	10/1/05	10/1/07	8	10	5	C
020113	Seward, City of	10/1/05	10/1/05	9	5	5	C
020094	Valdez, City of	10/1/92	10/1/92	9	5	5	C
Arizona							
040013	Benson, Town of	10/1/91	10/1/92	10	0	0	R
040014	Bisbee, City of	10/1/91	10/1/92	10	0	0	R
040131	Camp Verde, Town of	10/1/91	10/1/96	8	10	5	C
040080	Casa Grande, City of	10/1/91	10/1/01	8	10	5	C
040040	Chandler, City of	10/1/91	05/1/04	7	15	5	C
040094	Chino Valley, Town of	10/1/91	10/1/93	8	10	5	C
040095	Clarkdale, Town of	10/1/91	10/1/96	8	10	5	C
040012	Cochise County	10/1/91	10/1/91	9	5	5	C
040019	Coconino County	10/1/91	10/1/99	8	10	5	C
040061	Dewey-Humboldt, Town of	10/1/07	10/1/07	8	10	5	C
040020	Flagstaff, City of	10/1/91	10/1/07	7	15	5	C
040028	Gila County	10/1/91	10/1/92	10	0	0	R
040044	Gilbert, Town of	10/1/91	10/1/92	8	10	5	C
040045	Glendale, City of	10/1/91	10/1/99	8	10	5	C
040067	Holbrook, City of	10/1/95	10/1/00	8	10	5	C
040037	Maricopa County	10/1/91	05/1/02	5	25	10	C
040048	Mesa, City of	10/1/91	04/1/98	10	0	0	R
040058	Mohave County	10/1/95	10/1/05	8	10	5	C
040066	Navajo County	10/1/92	05/1/08	8	10	5	C
040051	Phoenix, City of	10/1/92	10/1/02	6	20	10	C
040073	Pima County	10/1/91	05/1/07	5	25	10	C
040098	Prescott, City of	10/1/91	10/1/01	8	10	5	C
040090	Santa Cruz County	10/1/03	05/1/08	7	15	5	C
045012	Scottsdale, City of	10/1/91	10/1/07	6	20	10	C
040130	Sedona, City of	10/1/91	10/1/91	9	5	5	C

¹For the purpose of determining CRS discounts, all AR and A99 zones are treated as non-SFHAs.

²Increase in discount for Classes 1-6 effective May 1, 2001. See table on page CRS 1.

³Status: C = Current, R = Rescinded

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM ELIGIBLE COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY NUMBER	COMMUNITY NAME	CRS ENTRY DATE	CURRENT EFFECTIVE DATE	CURRENT CLASS	% DISCOUNT FOR SFHA ¹	% DISCOUNT FOR NON-SFHA ²	STATUS ³
	Arizona (continued)						
040069	Show Low, City of	10/1/91	10/1/91	9	5	5	C
040054	Tempe, City of	10/1/91	05/1/02	8	10	5	C
040076	Tucson, City of	10/1/91	10/1/07	6	20	10	C
040056	Wickenburg, Town of	10/1/92	10/1/07	10	0	0	R
040031	Winkelman, Town of	10/1/91	10/1/95	10	0	0	R
040093	Yavapai County	10/1/91	10/1/07	7	15	5	C
	Arkansas						
050029	Arkadelphia, City of	10/1/91	10/1/05	8	10	5	C
050192	Benton, City of	10/1/93	10/1/93	9	5	5	C
050419	Benton County	05/1/05	05/1/05	8	10	5	C
050012	Bentonville, City of	10/1/92	10/1/02	8	10	5	C
050140	Blytheville, City of	10/1/95	10/1/95	9	5	5	C
050046	Bono, City of	10/1/92	05/1/02	8	10	5	C
050308	Bryant, City of	10/1/92	10/1/92	9	5	5	C
050433	Garland County	10/1/93	10/1/93	9	5	5	C
050168	Helena, City of	10/1/93	10/1/99	10	0	0	R
050084	Hot Springs, City of	10/1/93	10/1/06	8	10	5	C
050180	Jacksonville, City of	10/1/94	10/1/04	8	10	5	C
050048	Jonesboro, City of	10/1/92	10/1/92	9	5	5	C
050181	Little Rock, City of	10/1/91	10/1/01	8	10	5	C
050088	Malvern, City of	10/1/91	10/1/96	10	0	0	R
050109	Pine Bluff, City of	10/1/94	10/1/95	10	0	0	R
050055	West Memphis, City of	10/1/92	10/1/02	8	10	5	C
	California						
060001	Alameda County	10/1/92	10/1/99	7	15	5	C
060213	Anaheim, City of	10/1/91	05/1/07	8	10	5	C
060714	Clearlake, City of	05/1/03	05/1/03	9	5	5	C
060025	Contra Costa County	10/1/91	04/1/01	6	20	10	C
065023	Corte Madera, Town of	10/1/03	05/1/08	8	10	5	C
060339	Cupertino, City of	10/1/05	10/1/05	8	10	5	C
060370	Fairfield, City of	10/1/92	05/1/02	8	10	5	C
060218	Fountain Valley, City of	10/1/96	04/1/98	8	10	5	C
065028	Fremont, City of	04/1/01	04/1/01	7	15	5	C
060048	Fresno, City of	10/1/92	10/1/07	8	10	5	C
065029	Fresno County	10/1/91	10/1/07	8	10	5	C
060340	Gilroy, City of	05/1/07	05/1/07	8	10	5	C
065034	Huntington Beach, City of	10/1/95	10/1/00	7	15	5	C
060222	Irvine, City of	10/1/91	05/1/02	8	10	5	C
060075	Kern County	10/1/91	05/1/08	8	10	5	C
060090	Lake County	10/1/95	10/1/06	8	10	5	C
060136	Long Beach, City of	10/1/93	05/1/08	7	15	5	C
060341	Los Altos, City of	10/1/91	10/1/96	8	10	5	C
060137	Los Angeles, City of	10/1/91	10/1/05	7	15	5	C
065043	Los Angeles County	10/1/91	10/1/96	8	10	5	C
060344	Milpitas, City of	10/1/91	05/1/07	6	20	10	C
060735	Mission Viejo, City of	10/1/05	10/1/05	9	5	5	C
060195	Monterey County	10/1/91	05/1/07	5	25	10	C
065074	Moreno Valley, City of	10/1/91	10/01/96	8	10	5	C

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³Status: C = Current, R = Rescinded

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM ELIGIBLE COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY NUMBER	COMMUNITY NAME	CRS ENTRY DATE	CURRENT EFFECTIVE DATE	CURRENT CLASS	% DISCOUNT FOR SFHA ¹	% DISCOUNT FOR NON-SFHA ²	STATUS ³
	California (continued)						
060346	Morgan Hill, City of	05/1/03	05/1/03	7	15	5	C
060347	Mountain View, City of	05/1/02	05/1/08	8	10	5	C
060751	Murrieta, City of	10/1/97	10/1/97	9	5	5	C
060207	Napa, City of	04/1/01	10/1/06	8	10	5	C
060227	Newport Beach, City of	10/1/93	05/1/08	8	10	5	C
060178	Novato, City of	10/1/95	05/1/07	8	10	5	C
060294	Oceanside, City of	10/1/91	10/1/96	8	10	5	C
060228	Orange, City of	10/1/92	05/1/08	9	5	5	C
060212	Orange County	10/1/91	05/1/08	7	15	5	C
060257	Palm Springs, City of	10/1/92	10/1/00	8	10	5	C
060348	Palo Alto, City of	10/1/91	10/1/01	7	15	5	C
060379	Petaluma, City of	10/1/91	10/1/96	6	20	10	C
060239	Placer County	10/1/91	10/1/07	8	10	5	C
060034	Pleasant Hill, City of	05/1/03	05/1/08	8	10	5	C
060012	Pleasanton, City of	10/1/92	10/1/97	8	10	5	C
060702	Poway, City of	05/1/08	05/1/08	8	10	5	C
060360	Redding, City of	10/1/96	05/1/08	6	20	10	C
060279	Redlands, City of	10/1/07	10/1/07	9	5	5	C
060035	Richmond, City of	10/1/95	10/1/95	9	5	5	C
060243	Roseville, City of	10/1/92	10/1/06	1	45	10	C
060266	Sacramento, City of	10/1/91	10/1/96	6	20	10	C
060262	Sacramento County	10/1/92	10/1/02	5	25	10	C
060202	Salinas, City of	10/1/91	10/1/02	7	15	5	C
060284	San Diego County	10/1/94	05/1/08	9	5	5	C
060299	San Joaquin County	10/1/93	05/1/03	6	20	10	C
060349	San Jose, City of	10/1/91	10/1/01	7	15	5	C
060231	San Juan Capistrano, City of	10/1/91	10/1/02	8	10	5	C
060013	San Leandro, City of	10/1/06	10/1/06	8	10	5	C
060310	San Luis Obispo, City of	10/1/91	10/1/96	8	10	5	C
060710	San Ramon, City of	10/1/91	10/1/06	8	10	5	C
060331	Santa Barbara County	10/1/91	05/1/06	6	20	10	C
060350	Santa Clara, City of	05/1/02	05/1/08	8	10	5	C
060337	Santa Clara County	05/1/04	10/1/07	7	15	5	C
060729	Santa Clarita, City of	10/1/01	10/1/01	9	5	5	C
060355	Santa Cruz, City of	10/1/92	05/1/02	7	15	5	C
060421	Simi Valley, City of	10/1/93	10/1/93	9	5	5	C
060631	Solano County	10/1/91	10/1/07	7	15	5	C
060375	Sonoma County	10/1/91	10/1/92	10	0	0	R
060302	Stockton, City of	10/1/96	10/1/97	8	10	5	C
060352	Sunnyvale, City of	10/1/98	05/1/08	8	10	5	C
060400	Tehama, City of	10/1/03	10/1/03	7	15	5	C
060373	Vacaville, City of	10/1/95	10/1/00	8	10	5	C
065070	Walnut Creek, City of	10/1/91	04/1/01	7	15	5	C
060357	Watsonville, City of	10/1/92	10/1/02	7	15	5	C
060238	Yorba Linda, City of	10/1/93	10/1/04	10	0	0	R
060396	Yuba City, City of	10/1/07	10/1/07	8	10	5	C
060427	Yuba County	10/1/03	05/1/08	8	10	5	C
	Colorado						
080001	Adams County	10/1/93	10/1/03	10	0	0	R

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