



NFIP/CRS UPDATE

June 2009

New Elevation Certificate brings a few Changes

In the April issue of the *NFIP/CRS Update*, you read that a new, slightly revised FEMA elevation certificate form is now available, and that its use will be mandatory after March 31, 2010. During the transition period, both the new certificate form and the previous one (which had an expiration date of February 28, 2009) may be used.

All CRS communities are required to maintain FEMA elevation certificates to obtain and maintain their classification in the CRS. The so-called “gig list” of items on the elevation certificate that must be filled in, accurately, is given on pages 310-4 and 310-5 of the *CRS Coordinator’s Manual*. If any of these items is found to be missing or incorrect on a sample of elevation certificates examined during a visit with your community, the ISO/CRS Specialist is required to adjust your credit points accordingly.

Although the new elevation certificate does not result in changes in the gig list, a few clarifications will help CRS communities use the new form more effectively.

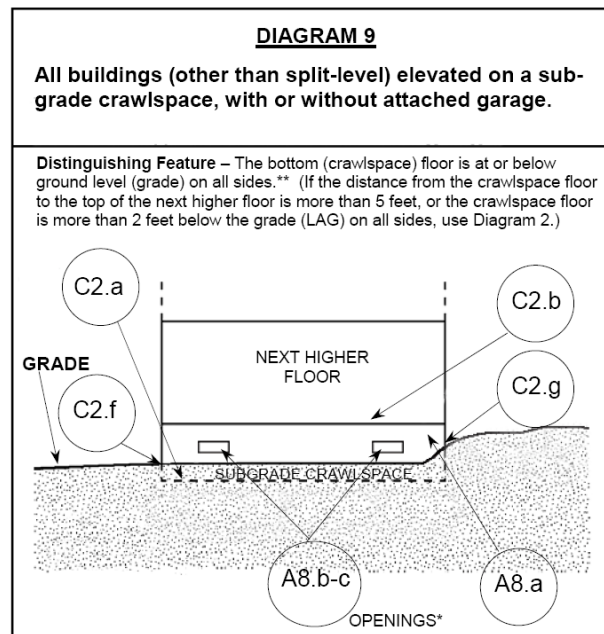
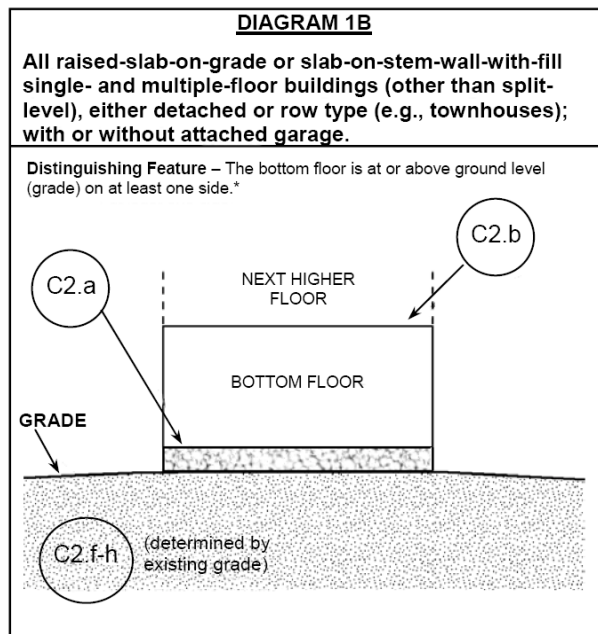
- **Item A6, Building Photographs.** This item was not changed in the 2009 elevation certificate. As a reminder, although the photographs are needed for insurance rating, they are not necessary for CRS credit, nor are they needed for most local permitting programs.
- **Item A7, Building Diagrams.** These diagrams illustrate where to take the various elevation measurements that are required in Section C of the elevation certificate. In the 2009 certificate, the previous Building Diagram 1 has been subdivided into two types of buildings. New Diagram 1A is the same as the previous Diagram 1. The new Diagram 1B shows the appropriate spots to measure the elevations on a building with a raised slab or foundation wall with fill (see next page).
There has been no change to Building Diagrams 2 through 8.
A new Building Diagram 9 illustrates where to take the measurements on a compliant, below-grade crawlspace where the crawlspace is less than 5 feet high and less than 2 feet below grade (see next page).
- **Item A9(b), Number of flood openings within 1 foot of the adjacent grade.** The instructions have been clarified to indicate that the level of the flood openings should be measured from either

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New Elevation Certificates —continued from front page



the exterior or interior grade, whichever is higher, and that a note should be entered in the comments section if the interior grade is used. This item must be filled in accurately, if applicable, for CRS credit.

- **Item A8(d) and A9(d)** are new boxes to indicate whether a building on a crawlspace or enclosure or with an attached garage has flood openings that were engineered. If the “yes” box is checked, the appropriate certificate must be attached, as explained in the instructions. This item must be accurately completed for CRS credit.
- **Item C2(h)** is a new entry to indicate the measurement of the lowest adjacent grade at the lowest elevation at the deck or stairs, if any. This is only needed for LOMAs and LOMR-Fs. It is not part of the CRS gig list.
- **Under Section D**, where the elevation is professionally certified, there is a new place to indicate whether the latitude and longitude of the building were provided by a licensed land surveyor. This is not part of the CRS checklist.
- **Item G10** is new but is not required for CRS credit. It allows entry of the community’s design flood elevation, if it has one.

The new FEMA elevation certificate and instructions can be downloaded from <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/elvinst.shtm>.

Statement of Purpose

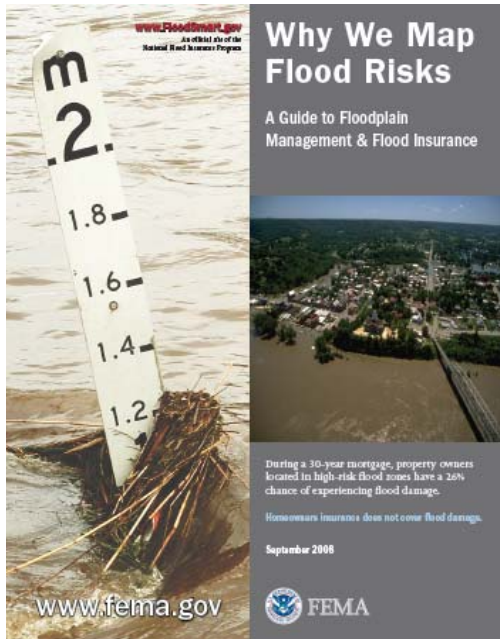
The *NFIP/CRS Update* is a publication of the National Flood Insurance Program’s Community Rating System. Its purpose is to provide local officials and others interested in the CRS with news they can use.

The *NFIP/CRS Update* is produced in alternate months. It is distributed free to local officials, state officials, consultants, and others who want to be on the mailing list. Communities are encouraged to copy and/or circulate the *NFIP/CRS Update* and to reprint its articles in their own local, state, or regional newsletters. No special permission is needed.

To become a subscriber or to suggest a topic that you would like addressed, contact

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Quick Guide to Flood Risk from FEMA



A short brochure just out from FEMA gives a quick overview of the types of floodplains found in the United States, the importance of identifying and mapping flood risk, and how people can obtain flood insurance for properties that are susceptible to flood damage. It also describes the process by which a community reviews its flood map if it is being updated, and gives phone numbers and websites for further information.

Why We Map Flood Risks is four-pages in full-color and is useful for handing out to property owners, having available at meetings with the public or elected officials, and for display in a building department or library that collects information on flooding.

It can be downloaded at <http://www.fema.gov:80/library/viewRecord.do?id=3417>.

Send in those Biennial Reports

In April 2009, FEMA sent Biennial Report forms to all communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program, asking the communities to complete the forms and submit the information. A second mailing of the Biennial Report will be sent to those communities that have not yet responded to the first mailing. If your community has not submitted its completed Biennial Report form as required for all communities participating in the NFIP, your ISO/CRS Specialist will be notified to add submission of the Biennial Report as a requirement for this year's recertification. Your Recertification Worksheet (AW-241) will be sent out in August and is due by October 1. A complete recertification package is required each year to retain your CRS classification.

Information you submit on your Biennial Report is essential to the NFIP's maintenance of an accurate database on all its communities. For CRS communities that use building counts to determine any portion of their CRS credit, it is particularly important to verify or correct on the Biennial Report the number of buildings in the Special Flood Hazard Area.

If you have questions about your report or your recertification, contact your ISO/CRS Specialist (see Appendix F of the *Coordinator's Manual*). More information about the Biennial Report, including access to an on-line reporting format, is found at <http://www.floodmaps.net/br2009/>.

Now on the FEMA Website

Some key CRS materials are now posted on the FEMA Mitigation Directorate's website. They include the CRS brochure, a current list CRS communities, the *CRS Coordinator's Manual*, and the most recent *NFIP/CRS Update* newsletter. Browse at <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/crs.shtm>.

The CRS Resource Center on the website of the Emergency Management Institute is being updated and will be unveiled soon.

Handouts on the CRS

The CRS produces a series of handouts on some of the activities for which communities can receive credit. The handouts can be used to familiarize a newcomer to the subject or to walk a person through the step-by-step scoring process. They do not replace the *CRS Coordinator's Manual* or other materials that provide more detailed information, but they are useful as summaries and/or specific instructions or examples.

The handouts are free in pdf format from your ISO/CRS Specialist or from NFIPCRS@iso.com.

Activity	Title	# of Pages
210	<i>Joining the Community Rating System</i>	1
310	<i>Form for noting Corrections to a 2009 Elevation Certificate</i>	1
404	<i>Using a Grid Overlay to Figure Areas</i>	3
410	<i>CRS Credit for Floodplain Mapping</i>	8
420	<i>Documentation Protection of Natural Floodplain Functions</i>	2
430 - CAZ	<i>CRS Credit for Coastal A Zone Regulations</i>	7
430 -FRB	<i>Protecting Building Utilities and Ductwork from Flood Damage</i>	4
430 - ENL	<i>Nonconversion Agreement</i>	1
440 - BMM	<i>CRS Credit for Benchmark Maintenance</i>	3
440	<i>Converting NGVD to NAVD</i>	2
502	<i>Mapping Repetitive Loss Areas</i>	8
504	<i>Funding Sources for Repetitive Flood Loss Properties</i>	2
530	<i>CRS Credit for Flood Control Projects</i>	7
530	<i>Environmental Review for Flood Control Projects</i>	2
540	<i>CRS Credit for Drainage System Maintenance</i>	4
610 - SRC	<i>StormReady/TsunamiReady</i>	2
620	<i>CRS Credit for Levee Safety</i>	2
710	<i>Calculating the Community Growth Adjustment</i>	spreadsheet

Courtesy Reviews are Always Available

It's smart to contact your ISO/CRS Specialist if your community is planning to request CRS credit for new activities you have undertaken since joining the CRS. The ISO/CRS Specialists are ready and willing to take an informal look at your ordinance language, outreach project, or other product to ensure that it will receive credit and to suggest minor changes that may yield a better score.

You can request this "courtesy review" any time, but allow enough time before you actually apply for the additional credit so there won't be any delay in getting the points you deserve. Up-to-date contact information for the ISO/CRS Specialists was published in the April *NFIP/CRS Update*.

Opportunities for NFIP and CRS Training

Courses at the Emergency Management Institute

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) conducts courses on floodplain management and CRS-related topics. These are oriented to local building, zoning, planning, and engineering officials. Tuition is free for state and local government officials and travel stipends are available. Call the training office of your state emergency management agency, see <http://training.fema.gov/>, or call EMI at (301) 447-1000.

Here's the schedule for EMI's week-long classes of interest to CRS communities. For more information on these courses, see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMICourses/EMICourse.asp>.

- **The Community Rating System (E278)** August 31—September 3, 2009, April 19–22, 2010, June 14–17, 2010, August 9–12, 2010

The Community Rating System course is also offered at other sites upon request. It will be held in Pocatello, Idaho (FEMA Region 10), July 27–30, 2009. Get information from the Idaho State NFIP Coordinator, Mary McGown, at (208) 287-4928..

- **Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP (E273)** July 20–23, 2009

E273 is also field deployed periodically. Contact your State NFIP Coordinator for more information. Find your State Coordinator at <http://www.floods.org/StatePOCs/stcoor.asp>.

- **Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts (E194)** August 10–13, 2009

- **Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts II (E282)** September 14–17, 2009

- **Basic HAZUS Multi-Hazards (E313)** July 13–16, 2009

- **Advanced HAZUS Multi-Hazards for Flood (E172)** (prerequisite is E313) July 27–30, 2009

- **HAZUS Multi-Hazards for Mitigation Planning (E296)** August 3–6, 2009

- **Residential Coastal Construction (E386)** August 17-21, 2009

Under the 2007 *CRS Coordinator's Manual* five points are provided under Section 431.n, Staffing (STF), for each member of the floodplain permit staff who graduates from courses E194, E273, E278, E282, or E386. The maximum credit for training under Section 431.n is 25 points.



Photo by Jocelyn Augustino
FEMA News Photo