

New Elevation Certificate can be used Now

As noted in the February issue of the NFIP/CRS Update, the FEMA elevation certificate form in use for the last several years has expired. Now the new, slightly revised form is available, having been issued by FEMA on April 1. It will not expire until March 31, 2012. The FEMA floodproofing certificate also was renewed and re-issued, but with no revisions.

There were only four, fairly minor changes to the elevation certificate.

- Under Section A, information is requested on whether or not the building has engineered flood openings.
- Under Section C, an item has been added that requires providing the “elevation of the lowest adjacent grade at the lowest elevation of deck or stairs,” if applicable. This applies if the certificate is being used to support a request for a Letter of Map Revision or Letter of Map Amendment.
- The Instructions for Section A, items A.8.b-c and A.9.b-c, have been revised, in part, to allow the height of flood openings to be determined from the interior grade or floor. Other parts of the instructions have also been clarified or expanded where needed.
- Two new building diagrams have been added: one for raised-slab-on-grade or slab-on-stem-wall-with-fill single- and multiple-floor buildings; and one for all buildings (other than split-level) that are elevated on a sub-grade crawlspace.

Shown in the box is the first page of a completed elevation certificate on the new form. The two main additions to that page are highlighted.

The new elevation certificate is being phased in over a one-year period. During this transition, the earlier form (with an expiration date of February 28, 2009) may continue to be used. This will allow plenty of time for CRS communities to make the change and to become familiar with the new items. Any elevations certified after March 31, 2010 must be made on the new form.

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

The image shows a completed FEMA Elevation Certificate form. The form is titled "ELEVATION CERTIFICATE" and includes the FEMA logo and "OMB No. 1560-0008 Expires March 31, 2012". The form is divided into several sections:

- SECTION A - PROPERTY INFORMATION:** Building Owner's Name: William Smith; Building Street Address: 3802 Woodbridge Road; City: Floodville; State: ST; ZIP Code: 92765; Building Use: residential.
- SECTION B - FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM) INFORMATION:** FIRM Panel: 123456; FIRM Index: B; Effective/Revised Date: 5/15/80; Flood Zone(s): A15; Base Flood Elevation(s): 1142.8.
- SECTION C - BUILDING ELEVATION INFORMATION (SURVEY REQUIRED):** Building elevations are based on: Construction Drawings; Building Under Construction: Finished Construction; Elevation Zones: A1-A30, AE, AH, A (with BFE), VE, V1-V30, V (with BFE), AR, ARA, ARAE, ARA1-A30, ARAH, ARAAD; Complete items C2-a-h below according to the building diagram specified in Item A7. Use the same datum as the BFE. Benchmark Utilized: NGS 14-21; Vertical Datum: NAVD 83; Conversion/Comments: N/A.
- SECTION D - SURVEYOR, ENGINEER, OR ARCHITECT CERTIFICATION:** Certified by: N. G. Nears, Registered Land Surveyor, License Number: 70501; Address: 4305 W. St. Paul, Floodville, ST, 92765; Date: 4/10/09; Telephone: 101/555-0704.

Two areas are highlighted in green:

- In Section A, item A9: "Engineered flood openings?" with "Yes" checked.
- In Section C, item C2-h: "Lowest adjacent grade at lowest elevation of deck or stairs, including structural support" with an elevation of 1144.5 feet.

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.

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