



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

February 26, 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR: Doug Bellomo, P.E., Project Officer
Eastern Studies Team

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Western Studies Team

[Original Signed]

FROM: Matthew B. Miller, P.E., Chief
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SUBJECT: Procedure Memorandum No.25 - Distribution of Preliminary DFIRMs
with DOQ Base.

Background: The FEMA Map Modernization Plan established standards allowing the use of Digital Orthophoto Quads (DOQs) as base maps for Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs). As the use of DOQs as base maps for DFIRMs increases, FEMA must ensure the legibility of the Preliminary copies of the DFIRMs that are provided to communities, States, FEMA Regional Offices, and other recipients. The current standards for distribution of Preliminary and effective copies of DFIRMs produced using DOQ base data are defined in Section 12.1 of the FEMA DFIRM Graphic Specifications. These standards specify that the Preliminary copies of the DFIRMs must be plotted and distributed in black and white, and effective copies of DFIRMs must be plotted and distributed in full color. All features shown in cyan on the effective copies of the DFIRM are displayed in white on the Preliminary copies.

Issue: The decision to distribute Preliminary copies of DFIRMs in black and white was made to minimize the cost of printing and distributing an interim product. Printing of Preliminary copies of DFIRMs in color for distribution would have significantly limited the quantity of DFIRMs that could be produced in any given year. Several communities have now received Preliminary copies of DFIRMs for which DOQs were used as a base. Many recipients of the Preliminary copies of the DFIRMs have raised concerns that it can be very difficult to review black-and-white flood zones and text that are overlaid on a gray-scale image.

Final Procedure: Effective immediately, Preliminary copies of DFIRMs for which DOQs or community-provided orthophotography are used as the base will be distributed in **Full-Color**.

cc: see distribution list

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