



Risk MAP Guidelines and Standards (G&S) 2016 Spring Maintenance Cycle

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maintains guidelines and standards to support the Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) Program. These guidelines and standards define the specific implementation of the statutory and regulatory requirements for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). These also outline the performance of Flood Risk Projects, processing of Letters of Map Change (LOMCs) and related Risk MAP activities. More information is available at: www.fema.gov/guidelines-and-standards-flood-risk-analysis-and-mapping.

FEMA has a maintenance plan for the Risk MAP guidelines and standards and issues updates on a semi-annual basis. This notice provides information about the spring semi-annual update, expected to be released in May 2016.

A summary of the proposed changes to standards, guidance and related documents is listed below. This update includes routine updates and ongoing transformation of legacy guidelines and specifications to produce new guidance documents that align with the current structure of Risk MAP standards, guidance and related documents. These topics are also listed below.

In addition to this routine maintenance, FEMA plans to issue new and updated standards, guidance, technical references and related documents to implement the mapping program defined by the Biggert Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act and the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act that can be completed without new regulations. These changes for May will:

- address the scope of the mapping program to ensure that it includes areas of possible population growth within the 100-year and 500-year floodplains.
- include requirements that the program accounts for non-structural flood mitigation features and works with communities to identify non-structural flood mitigation features,
- introduce new analyses and products that begin to analyze and map the level of protection provided by flood control structures and non-structural flood mitigation features,
- strengthen requirements to use the best available elevation data for mapping, strengthen requirements for watershed based analysis and mapping,
- strengthen requirements to include a broad range of existing data from various sources during the analysis of flood hazard,
- include new notifications for communities of the models to be used in the analysis and an explanation of why they are appropriate,
- include a mandatory step to share initial results of the analysis for review by the community,
- establish a procedure for evaluating community map update requests based on the implementation of recommendations from the Technical Mapping Advisory Council, and
- strengthen and expand the community engagement, outreach and education elements of the flood risk project process.

If you have feedback about FEMA's guidelines and standards, you may submit comments or suggestions by e-mail to FEMA.GS@riskmapcds.com.

Proposed Changes

Item #	Doc. Type	Subject	Description
1	Standard/Guidance	Notices to Users (NTU) Standards	Minor updates to the Notice to User (NTU) guidance to clarify when issues are discovered prior to the effective date. These updates might result in an addition to standard SID 214 to better align with the changes.
2	Standard/Guidance	MT-1 Basis of Determinations	New standards and related guidance to require Letters of Map Amendment (LOMA), Conditional Letters of Map Amendment (CLOMA), Letters of Map Revision based on Fill (LOMR-F), and Conditional Letters of Map Revision based on Fill (CLOMR-F) reviews must follow the procedures outlined in the "Basis of MT-1 Determinations" Guidance Document and the results must be stored with the Mapping Information Platform (MIP).
3	Standard/Guidance	Base Flood Elevations	Assess the need for minor revisions to how Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) are shown on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM)s.
4	Standard/Tech. Ref.	Minor Flood Risk Product Maintenance	Minor updates to terminology and to improve consistency between the Flood Risk Product-related standards and technical references.
5	Standard/Guidance/Tech. Ref.	First Order Approximation (FOA) Requirements	Minor updates to FOA requirements address issues identified during implementation
6	Standard/Guidance/Tech. Ref.	Agreement Across Regulatory Products	Update Standard ID (SID) 507 to add the FIRM database to the list of products that are required to be in agreement with each other.
7	Standard/Guidance/Tech. Ref.	SID 417 & Flood Risk Assessment Updates	Updates to reflect improvements in the way the Flood Risk Assessment dataset is produced, and to modify the requirements for delivering the Average Annualized Loss (AAL) data as part of a Flood Risk Project.
8	Guidance	Minor Regulatory Product Maintenance	Updates to the FIRM Graphics, Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) Incorporation, Base Map and FIRM Panel Layout, Physical Map Revision (PMR), FIRM Database Verification Tool (DVT), and NTU guidance documents to provide additional clarification and improve consistency with other documents.
9	Guidance/Tech. Ref.	Zone D for Levee	Update the shading for Zone D for levees to better communicate the fact that some data is available for Zone D areas established using the levee analysis and mapping approach. This impacts several technical references and related documents.

Item #	Doc. Type	Subject	Description
10	Technical Reference	Elevation Inventory	Add a table to the elevation data capture requirements that can be used to update the U.S. Interagency Elevation Inventory.

Guidance Transformation

Item #	Guidance Transformation Topic Name
1	Appeal and Comment Processing
2	Coastal: Glossary, Acronyms, References, & Notation
3	Coastal: Temporary Disturbances
4	Coastal: Water Levels
5	Dam Specific Non-Regulatory Products
6	General Hydrology Considerations
7	Geospatial Data Coordination
8	Letter of Final Determination (LFD)
9	Levee Specific Non-Regulatory Products
10	Projections and Coordinate Systems
11	Stakeholder Engagement: Due Process
12	Technical Support Data Notebook (TSDN) and Flood Elevation Determination Docket (FEDD) File

**This Document is Superseded.
For Reference Only.**