SPECIAL CERTIFICATIONS

This section presents detailed instructions for the completion of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Elevation Certificate and the NFIP Floodproofing Certificates.

NOTE: When determining the lowest floor for rating, refer to the Lowest Floor Guide section of this manual.

I. NFIP ELEVATION CERTIFICATE

The NFIP Elevation Certificate (EC) form and instructions were revised effective February 13, 2006. The surveyor, engineer, architect, property owner, or owner's representative is required to provide the square footage of any crawl space or enclosure(s) below the lowest elevated floor (including an attached garage) and generally at least two photographs of the building when completing the EC to obtain flood insurance through the NFIP. This additional information will significantly enhance the agent's and company underwriter's ability to properly rate elevation-rated risks.

The new EC form and instructions (shown on pages CERT 11-26) were phased in on a voluntary basis through December 31, 2006. Elevations certified on or after January 1, 2007, must be submitted on the new form. An exception is made when the community official completes the old EC with elevation data received by the community before January 1, 2007. It must be noted in the Comments area of Section G of the old EC that the community had the data on file before January 1, 2007. Current photograph requirements, and exceptions to them, are described in Section II. below.

Non-NFIP elevation certification forms certified on or after October 1, 2000, do not satisfy NFIP requirements and cannot be used for rating policies under any circumstances.

The EC is required on Post-FIRM construction, but is optional on Pre-FIRM construction. The EC is required by the NFIP to certify the lowest floor of a building so the policy can be properly rated, as follows (also see pages LFG 1-2):

- All Post-FIRM structures

  The EC is to be completed by a land surveyor, engineer, or architect who is authorized by state or local law to certify elevation information when it is required for Zones A1-A30, AE, AH, A (with Base Flood Elevations [BFEs]), V1-V30, VE, and V (with BFEs). Community officials who are authorized by local law or ordinance to provide floodplain management information may also complete this form. For Zones AO and A (without BFEs), a building official, a property owner, or an owner's representative may also provide the information on this certification. Building elevation information may be available through the community official if the community is a CRS participating community.

  The lowest adjacent grade and diagram number are required for all new business applications effective on or after October 1, 1997, if the elevation certification date is on or after October 1, 1997.

- Pre-FIRM structures rated under Post-FIRM rates

  Pre-FIRM construction can be elevation rated using the Post-FIRM EC rates, which are more favorable rates if the lowest floor of the building is at or above the BFE for the community. In most cases, the lowest floor level of a Pre-FIRM building is below the BFE, and it would not benefit the insured to pay the cost for an EC in an attempt to secure a lower rate. The decision to obtain an EC and to request Post-FIRM rating of a Pre-FIRM building is an option of the insured.

- AR and AR Dual Zones

  The EC is optional on all Post- and Pre-FIRM construction located in AR and AR dual zones. The decision to obtain an EC and to request Post-FIRM rating is at the discretion of the insured. The EC includes the AR and AR dual zone elevation requirements.

Detailed instructions for completion are provided with the EC.

The producer is to attach the original of the completed EC to the Application. A photocopy is to be forwarded to the policyholder and a copy is retained by the producer.

II. PHOTOGRAPH REQUIREMENTS

Generally, all new business applications for elevation-rated risks with a policy effective date of January 1, 2007, or later must be submitted with a least two photographs that show the front and back of the building and were taken and dated within 90 days of the mailing date (not the certification date, if that date was earlier). If the building is a split-level or has multi-level areas at

ground level, at least two additional photographs showing views of both sides of the building must be submitted.

- *Exception 1:*

  When an agent moves his or her book of business from one WYO company to another, or when one WYO company acquires another's book of business, photographs are not required. FEMA will continue to consider such policies as renewals, even though they are reported as new business under the *Transaction Record Reporting and Processing Plan*. (However, when an insured changes agent and WYO company, that policy is considered new business, and photographs are required.)

- *Exception 2:*

  When a Flood Insurance Application and an EC are submitted for a building in the course of construction, photographs are not required and proposed elevations will be used for rating. When the building is completed, a revised EC with required photographs and as-built elevations must be submitted for use in re-rating the policy.

These new requirements also apply to all renewal and endorsement transactions adding elevation rating effective on or after January 1, 2007.

For the convenience of users, two Building Photographs pages are included with the EC and instructions. However, photographs may be attached to any sheet(s) of blank paper or business letterhead. All photographs must measure at least 3"×3", provide a clear image of the building's distinguishing features, and include date taken. Analog or digital photographs are acceptable. Color photographs are preferred.

An Elevation Certificate submitted without the required photographs is not considered valid for rating, unless the building is in the course of construction. Each WYO company may use its current business practices in handling ECs without photographs, whether that is tentative rating, provisional rating, or rejection of the application.

III. USING THE ELEVATION CERTIFICATE: SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Section A – Property [Owner] Information

- Section A of the EC includes the building use. This information is helpful in validating the data collected by the insurance agent, and the Flood Insurance Application information.
- On the new EC, latitude, longitude, and related information are optional *only if* the document is being certified by other than a licensed surveyor, engineer, or architect.
- If the new EC is being used to obtain flood insurance, and the certification date is on or after January 1, 2007, the EC must be accompanied by at least two current photographs of the building. (See II. PHOTOGRAPH REQUIREMENTS above.)
- For any crawl space, enclosure(s), or attached garage, the new EC collects square footage, number of flood openings within 1.0 foot above adjacent grade, and total area of flood openings in square inches. (A parking area located beneath an elevated floor is not considered an attached garage.)

The information found in Section A of the EC is critical, as it relates to the insured property. Should information be missing from Section A (except latitude, longitude, and related information), the certificate must be returned to the surveyor, engineer, architect, or community official who executed the form. These individuals should be encouraged to fully complete Section A to avoid any delay in the issuance of the flood insurance policy.

Section B – Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Information

The Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) information includes the following:

- FIRM panel effective date and revised date;
- Source of the BFE or base flood depth;

  NOTE: The same elevation datum should be used in determining all certification elevations as was used in determining the BFE (i.e., NGVD 1929 or NAVD 1988).

- Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) area or Otherwise Protected Area (OPA).

  NOTE: Refer to the Coastal Barrier Resources System section of this manual for flood insurance coverage eligibility.

Section C – Building Elevation Information (Survey Required)

Responsibilities for building elevation information are as follows.

- The surveyor, engineer, or architect is required to provide a number of elevations based on the building type selected.

- From the elevations gathered, the insurance agent is required to determine the lowest floor for rating flood insurance.

As it relates to Section C, information found not to be applicable to the property being certified should be marked N/A (not applicable) by the surveyor, engineer, or architect. If any part of Section C is left blank, critically review it and contact the surveyor, engineer, or architect who completed the form and your company underwriter with any questions.

Elevation(s) of machinery and equipment servicing the building (e.g., water heater, furnace, a/c compressor, heat pump, water pump) must be provided, regardless of its location, whether inside or outside of the building, elevated on a platform or non-elevated.

The surveyor, engineer, or architect may not be able to gain access to some crawl spaces to shoot the elevation of the crawl space floor. In this instance, Item C2.a on the new EC (C3.a on the old EC) may be left blank and the estimated measurements entered in the Comments area of Section D.

Elevations in Section C are based on feet, except in Puerto Rico, where the metric system is used. The agent must convert any metric elevation readings into feet before calculating the flood insurance premium.

Section D – Surveyor, Engineer, or Architect Certification

Section D is the surveyor's, engineer's, or architect's certification that the information provided in Sections A, B, and C is representative of the certifier's best efforts to interpret the data available. The surveyor's, engineer's, or architect's signature and identification number are required fields. Some States also may require a seal.

Section E – Building Elevation Information (Survey Not Required) for Zone AO and Zone A (Without BFE)

Building Diagram Number (old EC) and the elevation difference between the lowest floor and the lowest adjacent grade (new EC) and highest adjacent grade are required.

For Zone A (without a FEMA-issued or community-issued BFE) and Zone AO, a property owner or owner's authorized representative may complete Sections A, B, and E.

Section F – Property Owner (or Owner's Representative) Certification

Address and other contact information about the property owner are requested in Section F. The party completing Sections A, B, C (on the old EC, Items C3.h and C3.i only), and E must execute Section F as well.

Section G – Community Information (Optional)

The local official who is authorized by law or ordinance to administer the community's floodplain management ordinance may transfer elevation information found on existing documentation (i.e., an older elevation certification form, or surveyor letterhead) to Section C of the EC. The local official must then certify this information by fully completing Section G. A statement advising FEMA of this transfer of information must be made in the comment section of the newer EC. Section G may also be used to certify Item E4.

IV. FLOODPROOFING CERTIFICATE

A. Purpose and Eligibility

- In certain circumstances, floodproofing may be permitted as an alternative to elevating to or above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE); however, a floodproofing design certification is required. Certified floodproofing may result in lower rates.

- Non-residential buildings in any community, in all locations except in V-Zones, may be floodproofed in lieu of elevating.

- Residential buildings may be floodproofed only if they have basements, are located in Zones A1-A30, AE, AR, AR Dual, AO, and AH, and only if they are located in communities specifically approved and authorized by FEMA. A current list of approved communities appears on page CERT 5.

- The allowable methods of floodproofing for non-residential buildings differ from those allowed for residential buildings. The specific requirements should be available from the local government.

B. Specifications

The specifications for floodproofing ensure that the building is watertight without human

intervention, its floodproofed walls will not collapse, and the floor at the base of the floodproofed walls will resist flotation during flooding conditions.

C. Rating

In order to be eligible for lower rates, the insured must have a registered professional engineer or architect certify that the floodproofing conforms with the minimum floodproofing specifications of FEMA. This means that the building must be floodproofed to at least 1 foot above the BFE. If floodproofed to 1 foot above the BFE, flood depth, or comparable community-approved floodplain management standards, it can then be treated for rating purposes as having a "0" elevation difference from the BFE. This certification must be submitted with the Flood Insurance Application.

To further illustrate, if the building is certified to be floodproofed to 2 feet above the BFE, flood depth, or comparable community approved floodplain management standards, whichever is highest, then it is credited for floodproofing and is to be treated for rating purposes as having a "+1" foot elevation.

See the Rating Section for special rating rules for Zones AO and AH.

D. Certification

- Residential Buildings (With Basements)

  The Residential Basement Floodproofing Certificate is available for residential buildings with basements located in Zones A1-A30, AE, AR, AR Dual, AO, AH, and A with estimated BFE *and* located in a FEMA-approved community that is listed on the next page. To receive credit for flood-proofing, the completed certificate must be submitted.

- Non-residential Buildings

  A completed Floodproofing Certificate for Non-residential Structures is required for all such buildings in Regular Program communities, located in Zones A1-A30, AE, AR, AR Dual, AO, AH, and A with estimated BFE, in order to receive credit for floodproofing in lieu of elevation.

APPROVED COMMUNITIES FOR RESIDENTIAL BASEMENT FLOODPROOFING RATING CREDIT

COMMUNITY NUMBER	STATE/COMMUNITY NAME	EFFECTIVE DATE[1]
	Alaska	
025009	Fairbanks N. Star Borough	2/28/73
	Idaho	
160028	Ammon, City of	6/8/90
	Iowa	
190488	Clive, City of	4/24/81
190031	Independence, City of	9/7/89
190309	La Porte City, City of	6/12/89
	Kansas	
200484	Colwich, City of	1/17/86
200323	Derby, City of	2/15/83[2]
200019	Great Bend, City of	8/10/83
200131	Halstead, City of	7/8/83
200215	Lindsborg, City of	11/7/94
200334	Rossville, City of	2/18/92
200319	Salina, City of	3/6/86
200316	Saline County	1/14/86
200134	Sedgwick, City of	5/19/86[2]
	Minnesota	
270267	Alvarado, City of	2/28/85
275235	Clay County	3/28/75
270080	Dilworth, City of	8/29/83
275236	East Grand Forks, City of	5/15/86[2]
275244	Moorhead, City of	2/12/76
270414	Roseau, City of	7/14/92
270273	Stephen, City of	5/10/83
270274	Warren, City of	9/24/82
	Nebraska	
310069	Fremont, City of	1/25/79
310103	Grand Island, City of	7/29/80
310100	Hall County	2/10/80
310001	Hastings, City of	7/8/83
310239	North Bend, City of	10/15/98
310046	Schuyler, City of	9/17/91
310039	Sidney, City of	12/4/84
310104	Wood River, City of	1/12/82
	New York	
360226	Amherst, Town of	11/20/78
360232	Clarence, Town of	8/01/00
	North Dakota	
380256	Barnes, Township of	1/22/82
380020	Casselton, City of	6/18/81
385364	Fargo, City of	3/26/75[2]
380137	Grafton, City of	5/21/81
380338	Harwood, City of	12/19/85
380259	Harwood, Township of	1/22/82
380022	Horace, City of	1/22/82
380023	Mapleton, City of	1/22/82[2]
380681	Oxbow, City of	6/1/92[2]
380263	Pleasant, Township of	5/5/83
380257	Reed, Township of	1/22/82
380324	Reiles Acres, City of	8/23/82
380258	Stanley, Township of	2/8/82
380024	West Fargo, City of	6/5/78
	South Dakota	
460044	Madison, City of	8/30/83
	Wisconsin	
550612	Allouez, Village of	1/11/93[2]
550600	Ashwaubenon, Village of	10/27/78
550020	Brown County	2/21/79[2]
550021	Depere, City of	10/27/78
550022	Green Bay, City of	10/27/78
550023	Howard, Village of	10/27/78
550309	Shiocton, Village of	8/1/98

[1] Effective date corresponds to the date of the letter from FEMA that granted the community's exception request.

[2] The date the community adopted floodproofing ordinances.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
National Flood Insurance Program

RESIDENTIAL BASEMENT FLOODPROOFING CERTIFICATE

See Reverse Side for Paperwork Burden Disclosure

O.M.B. No. 1660-0033
Expires April 30, 2007

For use ONLY in communities which have been granted an exception by FEMA to allow the construction of floodproofed residential basements in Special Flood Hazard Areas.

BUILDING OWNER'S NAME	FOR INSURANCE COMPANY USE
	POLICY NUMBER
BUILDING STREET ADDRESS **(Including Apt., Unit, Number)**	COMPANY NAIC NUMBER
OTHER DESCRIPTION **(Lot and Block Numbers, etc.)**	
CITY	STATE / ZIP CODE

SECTION I-FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM) INFORMATION

Provide the following from the FIRM and flood profile **(from Flood Insurance Study)**

COMMUNITY NUMBER	PANEL NUMBER	SUFFIX	DATE OF FIRM	FIRM ZONE	BASE FLOOD ELEVATION (NGVD) (IN AO ZONES, USE DEPTH)	NAME OF FLOODING SOURCE(S) AFFECTING BUILDING

SECTION II-FLOODPROOFING INFORMATION (By a Registered Professional Engineer or Architect)

Floodproofing Design Elevation Information:

Building is floodproofed to an elevation of ___ ___ ___ ___ . ___ feet NGVD.
(Elevation datum used must be the same as that on the FIRM.)

Elevation of the top of the basement floor is ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ . ___ feet NGVD.

(Note: The floodproofing design elevation must be at least one foot above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE))

SECTION III-CERTIFICATION (By a Registered Professional Engineer or Architect)

Residential Floodproofed Basement Construction Certification:

I certify that, based upon development and/or review of structural design specifications, and plans for construction, including consideration of the depth, velocity, and duration of flooding and the type and permeability of soils at the site, the design and methods of construction of the floodproofed basement to be used are in accordance with accepted standards of practice for meeting the following provisions:

- Basement, together with attendant utilities and sanitary facilities, is watertight to the floodproofing design elevation with walls that are impermeable to the passage of water without human intervention; and
- Basement walls and floor are capable of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and the effects of buoyancy resulting from flooding to the floodproofing design elevation; and have been designed so that minimal damage will occur from floods that exceed the floodproofing design elevation; and
- Building design, including the floodproofing design elevation, complies with community requirements.

I certify that the information on this certificate represents my best efforts to interpret the data available. I understand that any false statement may be punishable by fine or imprisonment under 18 U.S. Code Section 1001.

CERTIFIER'S NAME	LICENSE NUMBER (or affix Seal)		
TITLE	COMPANY NAME		
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
SIGNATURE		PHONE NO.	DATE

Copies of this certificate must be given to: 1) the community official; 2) the insurance agent; and 3) the building owner.

FEMA Form 81-78, May 04 F-200 (05/04)

PAPERWORK BURDEN DISCLOSURE NOTICE

FEMA Form 81-78

Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 3.35 hours per response. The burden estimate includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and submitting the form. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless a valid OMB control number is displayed in the upper right corner of this form. Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to: Information Collections Management, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street, SW, Washington, DC 20472, Paperwork Reduction Project (1660-0033). **NOTE: Do not send your completed form to this address.**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
National Flood Insurance Program

O.M.B. NO. 1660-0008
Expires February 28, 2009

FLOODPROOFING CERTIFICATE

FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES

The floodproofing of non-residential buildings may be permitted as an alternative to elevating to or above the Base Flood Elevation; however, a floodproofing design certification is required. This form is to be used for that certification. Floodproofing of a residential building does not alter a community's floodplain management elevation requirements or affect the insurance rating unless the community has been issued an exception by FEMA to allow floodproofed residential basements. The permitting of a floodproofed residential basement requires a separate certification specifying that the design complies with the local floodplain management ordinance.

BUILDING OWNER'S NAME

STREET ADDRESS (Including Apt., Unit, Suite, and/or Bldg. Number) OR P.O. ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER

OTHER DESCRIPTION (Lot and Block Numbers, etc.)

FOR INSURANCE COMPANY USE
POLICY NUMBER
COMPANY NAIC NUMBER

CITY STATE ZIP CODE

SECTION I FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM) INFORMATION

Provide the following from the proper FIRM:

COMMUNITY NUMBER	PANEL NUMBER	SUFFIX	DATE OF FIRM INDEX	FIRM ZONE	BASE FLOOD ELEVATION (In AO Zones, Use Depth)

SECTION II FLOODPROOFING INFORMATION (By a Registered Professional Engineer or Architect)

Floodproofing Design Elevation Information:

Building is floodproofed to an elevation of ..... feet NGVD. (Elevation datum used must be the same as that on the FIRM.)

Height of floodproofing on the building above the lowest adjacent grade is ..... feet.

(NOTE: for insurance rating purposes, the building's floodproofed design elevation must be at least one foot above the Base Flood Elevation to receive rating credit. If the building is floodproofed only to the Base Flood Elevation, then the building's insurance rating will result in a higher premium.)

SECTION III CERTIFICATION (By Registered Professional Engineer or Architect)

Non-Residential Floodproofed Construction Certification:

I certify that, based upon development and/or review of structural design, specifications, and plans for construction, the design and methods of construction are in accordance with accepted standards of practice for meeting the following provisions:

The structure, together with attendant utilities and sanitary facilities, is watertight to the floodproofed design elevation indicated above, with walls that are substantially impermeable to the passage of water.

All structural components are capable of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic flood forces, including the effects of buoyancy, and anticipated debris impact forces.

I certify that the information on this certificate represents my best efforts to interpret the data available. I understand that any false statement may be punishable by fine or imprisonment under 18 U.S. Code, Section 1001.

CERTIFIER'S NAME LICENSE NUMBER (or Affix Seal)

TITLE COMPANY NAME

ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP CODE

SIGNATURE DATE PHONE

Copies should be made of this Certificate for: 1) community official, 2) Insurance agent/company, and 3) building owner.

FEMA Form 81-65, Feb 06 Replaces all previous editions F-056 (2/06)

FLOOD INSURANCE
FLOODPROOFING CERTIFICATE
FEMA FORM 81-65

GENERAL—This information is provided pursuant to Public Law 96-511 (the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, as amended), dated December 11, 1980, to allow the public to participate more fully and meaningfully in the Federal paperwork review process.

AUTHORITY—Public Law 96-511, amended; 44 U.S.C. 3507; and 5 CFR 1320

PAPERWORK BURDEN DISCLOSURE NOTICE—The public reporting burden for this form is estimated to be 3.25 hours per response. The burden estimates includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the needed data, and completing, reviewing, and submitting the form. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless a valid OMB control number appears in the upper right corner of this form. Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing this burden to: Information Collections Management, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street, SW, Washington, DC 20472, Paperwork Reduction Project (1660-0008).
NOTE: Please do not send your completed form to the above address.

FEMA

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

ELEVATION CERTIFICATE

AND

INSTRUCTIONS

NEW EDITION
Voluntary-Use Date: February 13, 2006
Mandatory-Use Date: January 1, 2007

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM
ELEVATION CERTIFICATE

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT NOTICE

Public reporting burden for the Elevation Certificate is estimated to average 3.5 hours per response. Burden means the time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, disclose, or provide information to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). You are not required to respond to the collection of information unless a valid OMB control number is displayed in the upper right corner of the form. You may send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Mitigation Division, 500 C Street SW, Washington DC 20472, Paperwork Reduction Project (1660-0008). **NOTE: Do not send your completed form to this address.** To obtain or retain benefits under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), you must respond to this collection of information.

PURPOSE OF THE ELEVATION CERTIFICATE

The Elevation Certificate is an important administrative tool of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). It is to be used to provide elevation information necessary to ensure compliance with community floodplain management ordinances, to determine the proper insurance premium rate, and to support a request for a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) or Letter of Map Revision based on fill (LOMR-F).

The Elevation Certificate is required in order to properly rate post-FIRM buildings, which are buildings constructed after publication of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), located in flood insurance Zones A1-A30, AE, AH, A (with BFE), VE, V1-V30, V (with BFE), AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AR/A1-A30, AR/AH, and AR/AO. The Elevation Certificate is not required for pre-FIRM buildings unless the building is being rated under the optional post-FIRM flood insurance rules.

As part of the agreement for making flood insurance available in a community, the NFIP requires the community to adopt a floodplain management ordinance that specifies minimum requirements for reducing flood losses. One such requirement is for the community to obtain the elevation of the lowest floor (including basement) of all new and substantially improved buildings, and maintain a record of such information. The Elevation Certificate provides a way for a community to document compliance with the community's floodplain management ordinance.

Use of this certificate does not provide a waiver of the flood insurance purchase requirement. Only a LOMA or LOMR-F from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) can amend the FIRM and remove the Federal mandate for a lending institution to require the purchase of flood insurance. However, the lending institution has the option of requiring flood insurance even if a LOMA/LOMR-F has been issued by FEMA. The Elevation Certificate may be used to support a LOMA or LOMR-F request. Lowest floor and lowest adjacent grade elevations certified by a surveyor or engineer will be required if the certificate is used to support a LOMA or LOMR-F request. A LOMA or LOMR-F request must be submitted with either a completed FEMA MT-EZ or MT-1 package, whichever is appropriate.

This certificate is used only to certify building elevations. A separate certificate is required for floodproofing. Under the NFIP, non-residential buildings can be floodproofed up to or above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). A floodproofed building is a building that has been designed and constructed to be watertight (substantially impermeable to floodwaters) below the BFE. Floodproofing of residential buildings is not permitted under the NFIP unless FEMA has granted the community an exception for residential floodproofed basements. The community must adopt standards for design and construction of floodproofed basements before FEMA will grant a basement exception. For both floodproofed non-residential buildings and residential floodproofed basements in communities that have been granted an exception by FEMA, a floodproofing certificate is required.

Additional guidance can be found in the FEMA Floodplain Management Bulletin about using the Elevation Certificate, available on FEMA's website at www.fema.gov/fima/fpmbul.shtm. Click on "FEMA 467-1 Elevation Certificate Cover and Bulletin."

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Federal Emergency Management Agency
National Flood Insurance Program

ELEVATION CERTIFICATE

OMB No. 1660-0008
Expires February 28, 2009

Important: Read the instructions on pages 1-8.

SECTION A - PROPERTY INFORMATION

For Insurance Company Use:

A1. Building Owner's Name — Policy Number

A2. Building Street Address (including Apt., Unit, Suite, and/or Bldg. No.) or P.O. Route and Box No. — Company NAIC Number

City | State | ZIP Code

A3. Property Description (Lot and Block Numbers, Tax Parcel Number, Legal Description, etc.)

A4. Building Use (e.g., Residential, Non-Residential, Addition, Accessory, etc.) _____

A5. Latitude/Longitude: Lat. _____ Long. _____ Horizontal Datum: ☐ NAD 1927 ☐ NAD 1983

A6. Attach at least 2 photographs of the building if the Certificate is being used to obtain flood insurance.

A7. Building Diagram Number_____

A8. For a building with a crawl space or enclosure(s), provide:
- a) Square footage of crawl space or enclosure(s) _____ sq ft
- b) No. of permanent flood openings in the crawl space or enclosure(s) walls within 1.0 foot above adjacent grade _____
- c) Total net area of flood openings in A8.b _____ sq in

A9. For a building with an attached garage, provide:
- a) Square footage of attached garage _____ sq ft
- b) No. of permanent flood openings in the attached garage walls within 1.0 foot above adjacent grade _____
- c) Total net area of flood openings in A9.b _____ sq in

SECTION B - FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM) INFORMATION

B1. NFIP Community Name & Community Number	B2. County Name	B3. State

B4. Map/Panel Number	B5. Suffix	B6. FIRM Index Date	B7. FIRM Panel Effective/Revised Date	B8. Flood Zone(s)	B9. Base Flood Elevation(s) (Zone AO, use base flood depth)

B10. Indicate the source of the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) data or base flood depth entered in Item B9.
☐ FIS Profile ☐ FIRM ☐ Community Determined ☐ Other (Describe) _____

B11. Indicate elevation datum used for BFE in Item B9: ☐ NGVD 1929 ☐ NAVD 1988 ☐ Other (Describe) _____

B12. Is the building located in a Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) area or Otherwise Protected Area (OPA)? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Designation Date_____ ☐ CBRS ☐ OPA

SECTION C - BUILDING ELEVATION INFORMATION (SURVEY REQUIRED)

C1. Building elevations are based on: ☐ Construction Drawings* ☐ Building Under Construction* ☐ Finished Construction
*A new Elevation Certificate will be required when construction of the building is complete.

C2. Elevations – Zones A1-A30, AE, AH, A (with BFE), VE, V1-V30, V (with BFE), AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AR/A1-A30, AR/AH, AR/AO. Complete Items C2.a-g below according to the building diagram specified in Item A7.

Benchmark Utilized _____ Vertical Datum _____

Conversion/Comments _____

		Check the measurement used.	
a)	Top of bottom floor (including basement, crawl space, or enclosure floor) _____.____	☐ feet	☐ meters (Puerto Rico only)
b)	Top of the next higher floor _____.____	☐ feet	☐ meters (Puerto Rico only)
c)	Bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member (V Zones only) _____.____	☐ feet	☐ meters (Puerto Rico only)
d)	Attached garage (top of slab) _____.____	☐ feet	☐ meters (Puerto Rico only)
e)	Lowest elevation of machinery or equipment servicing the building (Describe type of equipment in Comments) _____.____	☐ feet	☐ meters (Puerto Rico only)
f)	Lowest adjacent (finished) grade (LAG) _____.____	☐ feet	☐ meters (Puerto Rico only)
g)	Highest adjacent (finished) grade (HAG) _____.____	☐ feet	☐ meters (Puerto Rico only)

SECTION D - SURVEYOR, ENGINEER, OR ARCHITECT CERTIFICATION

This certification is to be signed and sealed by a land surveyor, engineer, or architect authorized by law to certify elevation information. *I certify that the information on this Certificate represents my best efforts to interpret the data available. I understand that any false statement may be punishable by fine or imprisonment under 18 U.S. Code, Section 1001.*

☐ Check here if comments are provided on back of form.

PLACE SEAL HERE

Certifier's Name — License Number

Title — Company Name

Address — City — State — ZIP Code

Signature — Date — Telephone

FEMA Form 81-31, February 2006 — See reverse side for continuation. — Replaces all previous editions

IMPORTANT: In these spaces, copy the corresponding information from Section A.			For Insurance Company Use:
Building Street Address (including Apt., Unit, Suite, and/or Bldg. No.) or P.O. Route and Box No.			Policy Number
City	State	ZIP Code	Company NAIC Number

SECTION D - SURVEYOR, ENGINEER, OR ARCHITECT CERTIFICATION (CONTINUED)

Copy both sides of this Elevation Certificate for (1) community official, (2) insurance agent/company, and (3) building owner.

Comments

Signature Date

☐ Check here if attachments

SECTION E - BUILDING ELEVATION INFORMATION (SURVEY NOT REQUIRED) FOR ZONE AO AND ZONE A (WITHOUT BFE)

For Zones AO and A (without BFE), complete Items E1-E5. If the Certificate is intended to support a LOMA or LOMR-F request, complete Sections A, B, and C. For Items E1-E4, use natural grade, if available. Check the measurement used. In Puerto Rico only, enter meters.

E1. Provide elevation information for the following and check the appropriate boxes to show whether the elevation is above or below the highest adjacent grade (HAG) and the lowest adjacent grade (LAG).
a) Top of bottom floor (including basement, crawl space, or enclosure) is _____. ___ ☐ feet ☐ meters ☐ above or ☐ below the HAG.
b) Top of bottom floor (including basement, crawl space, or enclosure) is _____. ___ ☐ feet ☐ meters ☐ above or ☐ below the LAG.

E2. For Building Diagrams 6-8 with permanent flood openings provided in Section A Items 8 and/or 9 (see page 8 of Instructions), the next higher floor (elevation C2.b in the diagrams) of the building is _____ . ___ ☐ feet ☐ meters ☐ above or ☐ below the HAG.

E3. Attached garage (top of slab) is _____. ____ ☐ feet ☐ meters ☐ above or ☐ below the HAG.

E4. Top of platform of machinery and/or equipment servicing the building is _____. ___ ☐ feet ☐ meters ☐ above or ☐ below the HAG.

E5. Zone AO only: If no flood depth number is available, is the top of the bottom floor elevated in accordance with the community's floodplain management ordinance? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown. The local official must certify this information in Section G.

SECTION F - PROPERTY OWNER (OR OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE) CERTIFICATION

The property owner or owner's authorized representative who completes Sections A, B, and E for Zone A (without a FEMA-issued or community-issued BFE) or Zone AO must sign here. *The statements in Sections A, B, and E are correct to the best of my knowledge.*

Property Owner's or Owner's Authorized Representative's Name

Address	City	State	ZIP Code
Signature	Date	Telephone	

Comments

☐ Check here if attachments

SECTION G - COMMUNITY INFORMATION (OPTIONAL)

The local official who is authorized by law or ordinance to administer the community's floodplain management ordinance can complete Sections A, B, C (or E), and G of this Elevation Certificate. Complete the applicable item(s) and sign below. Check the measurement used in Items G8. and G9.

G1. ☐ The information in Section C was taken from other documentation that has been signed and sealed by a licensed surveyor, engineer, or architect who is authorized by law to certify elevation information. (Indicate the source and date of the elevation data in the Comments area below.)

G2. ☐ A community official completed Section E for a building located in Zone A (without a FEMA-issued or community-issued BFE) or Zone AO.

G3. ☐ The following information (Items G4.-G9.) is provided for community floodplain management purposes.

G4. Permit Number	G5. Date Permit Issued	G6. Date Certificate Of Compliance/Occupancy Issued

G7. This permit has been issued for: ☐ New Construction ☐ Substantial Improvement

G8. Elevation of as-built lowest floor (including basement) of the building: _____. ____ ☐ feet ☐ meters (PR) Datum_____

G9. BFE or (in Zone AO) depth of flooding at the building site: _____. ____ ☐ feet ☐ meters (PR) Datum_____

Local Official's Name	Title
Community Name	Telephone
Signature	Date

Comments

☐ Check here if attachments

Building Photographs

See Instructions for Item A6.

Building Street Address (including Apt., Unit, Suite, and/or Bldg. No.) or P.O. Route and Box No.			For Insurance Company Use: Policy Number
City	State	ZIP Code	Company NAIC Number

If using the Elevation Certificate to obtain NFIP flood insurance, affix at least two building photographs below according to the instructions for Item A6. Identify all photographs with: date taken; "Front View" and "Rear View"; and, if required, "Right Side View" and "Left Side View." If submitting more photographs than will fit on this page, use the Continuation Page, following.

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Building Photographs

Continuation Page

Building Street Address (including Apt., Unit, Suite, and/or Bldg. No.) or P.O. Route and Box No.			For Insurance Company Use: Policy Number
City	State	ZIP Code	Company NAIC Number

If submitting more photographs than will fit on the preceding page, affix the additional photographs below. Identify all photographs with: date taken; "Front View" and "Rear View"; and, if required, "Right Side View" and "Left Side View."

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE ELEVATION CERTIFICATE

The Elevation Certificate is to be completed by a land surveyor, engineer, or architect who is authorized by law to certify elevation information when elevation information is required for Zones A1-A30, AE, AH, A (with BFE), VE, V1-V30, V (with BFE), AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AR/A1-A30, AR/AH, or AR/AO. Community officials who are authorized by law or ordinance to provide floodplain management information may also complete this form. For Zones AO and A (without BFE), a community official, a property owner, or an owner's representative may provide information on this certificate, unless the elevations are intended for use in supporting a request for a LOMA or LOMR-F. Certified elevations must be included if the purpose of completing the Elevation Certificate is to obtain a LOMA or LOMR-F.

The property owner, the owner's representative, or local official who is authorized by law to administer the community floodplain ordinance can complete Section A and Section B. The partially completed form can then be given to the land surveyor, engineer, or architect to complete Section C. The land surveyor, engineer, or architect should verify the information provided by the property owner or owner's representative to ensure that this certificate is complete.

In Puerto Rico only, elevations for building information and flood hazard information may be entered in meters.

SECTION A – PROPERTY INFORMATION

Items A1.-A4. This section identifies the building, its location, and its owner. Enter the name(s) of the building owner(s), the building's complete street address, and the lot and block numbers. If the building's address is different from the owner's address, enter the address of the building being certified. If the address is a rural route or a Post Office box number, enter the lot and block numbers, the tax parcel number, the legal description, or an abbreviated location description based on distance and direction from a fixed point of reference. For the purposes of this certificate, "building" means both a building and a manufactured (mobile) home.

A map may be attached to this certificate to show the location of the building on the property. A tax map, FIRM, or detailed community map is appropriate. If no map is available, provide a sketch of the property location, and the location of the building on the property. Include appropriate landmarks such as nearby roads, intersections, and bodies of water. For building use, indicate whether the building is residential, non-residential, an addition to an existing residential or non-residential building, an accessory building (e.g., garage), or other type of structure. Use the Comments area of the appropriate section if needed, or attach additional comments.

Item A5. Provide latitude and longitude coordinates for the center of the front of the building. Use either decimal degrees (e.g., 39.5043°, -110.7585°) or degrees, minutes, seconds (e.g., 39° 30' 15.5", -110° 45' 30.7") format. If decimal degrees are used, provide coordinates to at least 4 decimal places or better. When using degrees, minutes, seconds, provide seconds to at least 1 decimal place or better. The latitude and longitude coordinates must be accurate within 66 feet. If the Elevation Certificate is being certified by other than a licensed surveyor, engineer, or architect, this information is not required. Provide the type of datum used to obtain the latitude and longitude. FEMA prefers the use of NAD 1983.

Item A6. If the Elevation Certificate is being used to obtain flood insurance through the NFIP, the certifier must provide at least two photographs showing the front and rear of the building taken within 90 days from the date of certification. The photographs must be taken with views confirming the building description and diagram number provided in Section A. If the building has split-level or multi-level areas, provide at least two additional photographs showing side views of the building. All photographs must be in color and measure at least 3"x3". Digital photographs are acceptable.

Item A7. Select the diagram on pages 7-8 that best represents the building. Then enter the diagram number and use the diagram to identify and determine the appropriate elevations requested in Items C2.a-g. If you are unsure of the correct diagram, select the diagram that most closely resembles the building being certified.

Item A8.a Provide the square footage of the crawl space or enclosure(s) below the lowest elevated floor of an elevated building with or without permanent flood openings. Take the measurement from the outside of the crawl space or enclosure(s). Examples of elevated buildings constructed with crawl space and enclosure(s) are shown in Diagrams 6-8 on page 8. Diagram 2 or 4 should be used for a building constructed with a crawl space floor that is below the exterior grade on all sides.

Items A8.b-c Enter in Item A8.b the number of permanent flood openings in the crawl space or enclosure(s) walls that are no higher than 1.0 foot above the adjacent grade. Estimate the total net area of all such permanent flood openings in square inches, excluding any bars, louvers, or other covers of the permanent flood openings, and enter the total in Item A8.c. If the net

area cannot be reasonably estimated, provide the size of the flood openings without consideration of any covers and indicate in the Comments area the type of cover that exists in the flood openings. If the crawl space or enclosure(s) walls have no permanent openings within 1.0 foot above adjacent grade, enter "0" (zero) in Items A8.b-c.

Item A9.a Provide the square footage of the attached garage with or without permanent flood openings. Take the measurement from the outside of the garage.

Items A9.b-c Enter in Item A9.b the number of permanent flood openings in the attached garage that are no higher than 1.0 foot above the adjacent grade. This includes any openings that are in the garage door that are no higher than 1.0 foot above the adjacent grade. Estimate the total net area of all such permanent flood openings in square inches and enter the total in Item A9.c. If the garage has no permanent flood openings within 1.0 foot above adjacent grade, enter "0" (zero) in Items A9.b-c.

SECTION B - FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM) INFORMATION

Complete the Elevation Certificate on the basis of the FIRM in effect at the time of the certification.

The information for Section B is obtained by reviewing the FIRM panel that includes the building's location. Information about the current FIRM is available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) by calling 1-800-358-9616. If a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) or Letter of Map Revision (LOMR-F) has been issued by FEMA, please provide the letter date and case number in the Comments area of Section D or Section G, as appropriate.

For a building in an area that has been annexed by one community but is shown on another community's FIRM, enter the community name and 6-digit number of the annexing community in Item B1, the name of the new county in Item B2, and the FIRM index date for the annexing community in Item B6. Enter information from the actual FIRM panel that shows the building location, even if it is the FIRM for the previous jurisdiction, in Items B4, B5, B7, B8, and B9.

Item B1. NFIP Community Name & Community Number. Enter the complete name of the community in which the building is located and the associated 6-digit community number. For a newly incorporated community, use the name and 6-digit number of the new community. Under the NFIP, a "community" is any State or area or political subdivision thereof, or any Indian tribe or authorized native organization, that has authority to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations for the areas within its jurisdiction. To determine the current community number, see the NFIP *Community Status Book*, available on FEMA's web site at http://www.fema.gov/fema/csb.shtm, or call 1-800-358-9616.

Item B2. County Name. Enter the name of the county or counties in which the community is located. For an unincorporated area of a county, enter "unincorporated area." For an independent city, enter "independent city."

Item B3. State. Enter the 2-letter state abbreviation (for example, VA, TX, CA).

Items B4.-B5. Map/Panel Number and Suffix. Enter the 10-character "Map Number" or "Community Panel Number" shown on the FIRM where the building or manufactured (mobile) home is located. For maps in a county-wide format, the sixth character of the "Map Number" is the letter "C" followed by a four-digit map number. For maps not in a county-wide format, enter the "Community Panel Number" shown on the FIRM.

Item B6. FIRM Index Date. Enter the effective date or the map revised date shown on the FIRM Index.

Item B7. FIRM Panel Effective/Revised Date. Enter the map effective date or the map revised date shown on the FIRM panel. This will be the latest of all dates shown on the map. The current FIRM panel effective date can be determined by calling 1-800-358-9616.

Item B8. Flood Zone(s). Enter the flood zone, or flood zones, in which the building is located. All flood zones containing the letter "A" or "V" are considered Special Flood Hazard Areas. The flood zones are A, AE, A1-A30, V, VE, V1-V30, AH, AO, AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AR/A1-A30, AR/AH, and AR/AO. Each flood zone is defined in the legend of the FIRM panel on which it appears.

Item B9. Base Flood Elevation(s). Using the appropriate Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Profile, Floodway Data Table, or FIRM panel, locate the property and enter the BFE (or base flood depth) of the building site. If the building is located in more than one flood zone in Item B8, list all appropriate BFEs in Item B9. BFEs are shown on a FIRM or FIS Profile for Zones A1-A30, AE, AH, V1-V30, VE, AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AR/A1-A30, AR/AH, and AR/AO; flood depth numbers are shown for Zone AO. Use the AR BFE if the building is located in any of Zones AR/A, AR/AE, AR/A1-A30, AR/AH, or AR/AO. In A or V zones where BFEs are not provided on the FIRM, BFEs may be available from another source. For example, the community may have established BFEs or obtained BFE data from other sources for the building site. For subdivisions and other developments of more than 50 lots or 5 acres, establishment of BFEs is required by the community's floodplain management ordinance. If a BFE is obtained from another source, enter the BFE in Item B9. In an A Zone where BFEs are not available, complete Section E and enter N/A for Section B, Item B9. Enter the BFE to the nearest tenth of a foot (nearest tenth of a meter, in Puerto Rico).

Item B10. Indicate the source of the BFE that you entered in Item B9. If the BFE is from a source other than FIS Profile, FIRM, or community, describe the source of the BFE.

Item B11. Indicate the elevation datum to which the elevations on the applicable FIRM are referenced as shown on the map legend. The vertical datum is shown in the Map Legend and/or the Notes to Users on the FIRM.

Item B12. Indicate whether the building is located in a Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) area or Otherwise Protected Area (OPA). (OPAs are portions of coastal barriers that are owned by Federal, State, or local governments or by certain non-profit organizations and used primarily for natural resources protection.) Federal flood insurance is prohibited in designated CBRS areas or OPAs for buildings or manufactured (mobile) homes built or substantially improved after the date of the CBRS or OPA designation. For the first CBRS designations, that date is October 1, 1983. An information sheet explaining CBRS areas and OPAs may be obtained on FEMA's web site at http://www.fema.gov/fhm/fmc_cbrs.shtm.

SECTION C - BUILDING ELEVATION INFORMATION (SURVEY REQUIRED)

Complete Section C if the building is located in any of Zones A1-A30, AE, AH, A (with BFE), VE, V1-V30, V (with BFE), AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AR/A1-A30, AR/AH, or AR/AO, or if this certificate is being used to support a request for a LOMA or LOMR-F. If the building is located in Zone AO or Zone A (without BFE), complete Section E instead. To ensure that all required elevations are obtained, it may be necessary to enter the building (for instance, if the building has a basement or sunken living room, split-level construction, or machinery and equipment).

Surveyors may not be able to gain access to some crawl spaces to shoot the elevation of the crawl space floor. If access to the crawl space is limited or cannot be gained, follow one of these procedures.

- Use a yardstick or tape measure to measure the height from the floor of the crawl space to the "next higher floor," and then subtract the crawl space height from the elevation of the "next higher floor." If there is no access to the crawl space, use the exterior grade next to the structure to measure the height of the crawl space to the "next higher floor."
- Contact the local floodplain administrator of the community in which the building is located. The community may have documentation of the elevation of the crawl space floor as part of the permit issued for the building.
- If the property owner has documentation or knows the height of the crawl space floor to the next higher floor, try to verify this by looking inside the crawl space through any openings or vents.

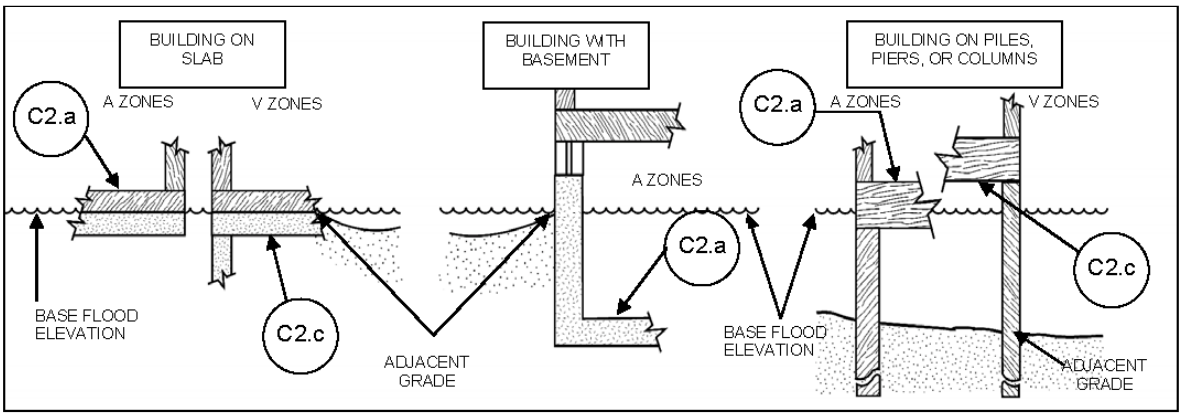
In all three cases, provide the elevation in the Comments area of Section D on the back of the form and a brief description of how the elevation was obtained.

Item C1. Indicate whether the elevations to be entered in this section are based on construction drawings, a building under construction, or finished construction. For either of the first two choices, a post-construction Elevation Certificate will be required when construction is complete. If the building is under construction, include only those elevations that can be surveyed in Items C2.a-g. Use the Comments area of Section D to provide elevations obtained from the construction plans or drawings. Select "Finished Construction" only when all machinery and/or equipment such as furnaces, hot water heaters, heat pumps, air conditioners, and elevators and their associated equipment have been installed and the grading around the building is completed.

Item C2. A field survey is required for Items C2.a-g. Provide the benchmark utilized, the vertical datum for that benchmark, and any datum conversion necessary. Most control networks will assign a unique identifier for each benchmark. For example, the National Geodetic Survey uses the Permanent Identifier (PID). For the benchmark utilized, provide the PID or other

unique identifier assigned by the maintainer of the benchmark. Also provide the vertical datum for the benchmark elevation. Show the conversion from the field survey datum used if it differs from the datum used for the BFE entered in Item B9 and indicate the conversion software used. All elevations for the certificate, including the elevations for Items C2.a-g, must be referenced to the datum on which the BFE is based. Show the datum conversion, if applicable, in this section or in the Comments area of Section D. For property experiencing ground subsidence, the most recent reference mark elevations must be used for determining building elevations. However, when subsidence is involved, the BFE should not be adjusted. Enter elevations in Items C2.a-g to the nearest tenth of a foot (nearest tenth of a meter, in Puerto Rico).

Items C2.a-d Enter the building elevations (excluding the attached garage) indicated by the selected building diagram (Item A7.) in Items C2.a-c. If there is an attached garage, enter the elevation for top of attached garage slab in Item C2.d. (Because elevation for top of attached garage slab is self-explanatory, attached garages are not illustrated in the diagrams.) If the building is located in a V zone on the FIRM, complete Item C2.c. If the flood zone cannot be determined, enter elevations for all of Items C2.a-g. For buildings in A zones, elevations a, b, d, and e should be measured at the top of the floor. For buildings in V zones, elevation c must be measured at the bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member of the floor (see drawing below). For buildings elevated on a crawl space, Diagram 8, enter the elevation of the top of the crawl space floor in Item C2.a, whether or not the crawl space has permanent flood openings (flood vents). *If any item does not apply to the building, enter "N/A" for not applicable.*



Item C2.e Enter the lowest platform elevation of at least one of the following machinery and equipment items: elevators and their associated equipment, furnaces, hot water heaters, heat pumps, and air conditioners in an attached garage or enclosure or on an open utility platform that provides utility services for the building. Note that elevations for these specific machinery and equipment items are required in order to rate the building for flood insurance. Local floodplain management officials are required to ensure that all machinery and equipment servicing the building are protected from flooding. Thus, local officials may require that elevation information for all machinery and equipment, including ductwork, be documented on the Elevation Certificate. If the machinery and/or equipment is mounted to a wall, pile, etc., enter the platform elevation of the machinery and/or equipment. Indicate machinery/equipment type in the Comments area of Section D or Section G, as appropriate. *If this item does not apply to the building, enter "N/A" for not applicable.*

Items C2.f-g Adjacent grade is defined as the elevation of the ground, sidewalk, patio slab, or deck support immediately next to the building. If the certificate is to be used to support a request for a LOMA or LOMR-F, provide in the Comments area the lowest adjacent grade elevation measured at the deck support or stairs if that elevation is lower than the building's lowest adjacent grade. For Zone AO, use the natural grade elevation, if available. This measurement must be to the nearest tenth of a foot (nearest tenth of a meter, in Puerto Rico) if this certificate is being used to support a request for a LOMA or LOMR-F.

SECTION D - SURVEYOR, ENGINEER, OR ARCHITECT CERTIFICATION

Complete as indicated. This section of the Elevation Certificate may be signed by only a land surveyor, engineer, or architect who is authorized by law to certify elevation information. Place your license number, your seal (as allowed by the State licensing board), your signature, and the date in the box in Section D. You are certifying that the information on this certificate represents your best efforts to interpret the data available and that you understand that any false statement may be punishable

by fine or imprisonment under 18 U.S. Code, Section 1001. Use the Comments area of Section D, on the back of the certificate, to provide datum, elevation, or other relevant information not specified on the front.

SECTION E - BUILDING ELEVATION INFORMATION (SURVEY NOT REQUIRED) FOR ZONE AO & ZONE A (WITHOUT BFE)

Complete Section E if the building is located in Zone AO or Zone A (without BFE). Otherwise, complete Section C instead. Explain in the Section F Comments area if the measurement provided under Items E1.- E4. is based on the "natural grade."

Items E1.a and b Enter in Item E1.a the height to the nearest tenth of a foot (tenth of a meter in Puerto Rico) of the top of the bottom floor (as indicated in the applicable diagram) above or below the highest adjacent grade (HAG). Enter in Item E1.b the height to the nearest tenth of a foot (tenth of a meter in Puerto Rico) of the top of the bottom floor (as indicated in the applicable diagram) above or below the lowest adjacent grade (LAG). For buildings in Zone AO, the community's floodplain management ordinance requires the lowest floor of the building be elevated above the highest adjacent grade at least as high as the depth number on the FIRM. Buildings in Zone A (without BFE) may qualify for a lower insurance rate if an engineered BFE is developed at the site.

Item E2. For Building Diagrams 6-8 with permanent flood openings (see page 8), enter the height to the nearest tenth of a foot (tenth of a meter in Puerto Rico) of the next higher floor or elevated floor (as indicated in the applicable diagram) above or below the highest adjacent grade (HAG).

Item E3. Enter the height to the nearest tenth of a foot (tenth of a meter in Puerto Rico), in relation to the highest adjacent grade next to the building, for the top of attached garage slab. (Because elevation for top of attached garage slab is self-explanatory, attached garages are not illustrated in the diagrams.) *If this item does not apply to the building, enter "N/A" for not applicable.*

Item E4. Enter the height to the nearest tenth of a foot (tenth of a meter in Puerto Rico), in relation to the highest adjacent grade next to the building, of the platform elevation that supports the machinery and/or equipment servicing the building. Indicate machinery/equipment type in the Comments area of Section F. *If this item does not apply to the building, enter "N/A" for not applicable.*

Item E5. For those communities where this base flood depth is not available, the community will need to determine whether the top of the bottom floor is elevated in accordance with the community's floodplain management ordinance.

SECTION F - PROPERTY OWNER (OR OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE) CERTIFICATION

Complete as indicated. This section is provided for certification of measurements taken by a property owner or property owner's representative when responding to Sections A, B, and E. The address entered in this section must be the actual mailing address of the property owner or property owner's representative who provided the information on the certificate.

SECTION G - COMMUNITY INFORMATION (OPTIONAL)

Complete as indicated. The community official who is authorized by law or ordinance to administer the community's floodplain management ordinance can complete Sections A, B, C (or E), and G of this Elevation Certificate. Section C may be filled in by the local official as provided in the instructions below for Item G1. If the authorized community official completes Sections C, E, or G, complete the appropriate item(s) and sign this section.

Check **Item G1.** if Section C is completed with elevation data from other documentation, including elevations obtained from the Community Rating System Elevation Software, that has been signed and sealed by a licensed surveyor, engineer, or architect who is authorized by law to certify elevation information. Indicate the source of the elevation data and the date obtained in the Comments area of Section G. If you are both a community official and a licensed land surveyor, engineer, or architect authorized by law to certify elevation information, and you performed the actual survey for a building in Zones A1-A30, AE, AH, A (with BFE), VE, V1-V30, V (with BFE), AR, AR/A, AR/A1-A30, AR/AE, AR/AH, or AR/AO, you must also complete Section D.

Check **Item G2.** if information is entered in Section E by the community for a building in Zone A (without a FEMA-issued or community-issued BFE) or Zone AO.

Check **Item G3.** if the information in Items G4.-G9. has been completed for community floodplain management purposes to document the as-built lowest floor elevation of the building. Section C of the Elevation Certificate records the elevation of various building components but does not determine the lowest floor of the building or whether the building, as constructed, complies with the community's floodplain management ordinance. This must be done by the community. Items G4.-G9. provide a way to document these determinations.

Item G4. Permit Number. Enter the permit number or other identifier to key the Elevation Certificate to the permit issued for the building.

Item G5. Date Permit Issued. Enter the date the permit was issued for the building.

Item G6. Date Certificate of Compliance/Occupancy Issued. Enter the date that the Certificate of Compliance or Occupancy or similar written official documentation of as-built lowest floor elevation was issued by the community as evidence that all work authorized by the floodplain development permit has been completed in accordance with the community's floodplain management laws or ordinances.

Item G7. New Construction or Substantial Improvement. Check the applicable box. "Substantial Improvement" means any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a building, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the building before the start of construction of the improvement. The term includes buildings that have incurred substantial damage, regardless of the actual repair work performed.

Item G8. As-built lowest floor elevation. Enter the elevation of the lowest floor (including basement) when the construction of the building is completed and a final inspection has been made to confirm that the building is built in accordance with the permit, the approved plans, and the community's floodplain management laws or ordinances. Indicate the elevation datum used.

Item G9. BFE. Using the appropriate FIRM panel, FIS Profile, or other data source, locate the property and enter the BFE (or base flood depth) of the building site. Indicate the elevation datum used.

Enter your name, title, and telephone number, and the name of the community. Sign and enter the date in the appropriate blanks.

BUILDING DIAGRAMS

The following eight diagrams illustrate various types of buildings. Compare the features of the building being certified with the features shown in the diagrams and select the diagram most applicable. Enter the diagram number in Item A7., the square footage of crawl space or enclosure(s) and the area of flood openings in square inches in Items A8.a-c, the square footage of attached garage and the area of flood openings in square inches in Items A9.a-c, and the elevations in Items C2.a-g.

In A zones, the floor elevation is taken at the top finished surface of the floor indicated; in V zones, the floor elevation is taken at the bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member (see drawing in instructions for Section C).

DIAGRAM 1

All slab-on-grade single- and multiple-floor buildings (other than split-level) and high-rise buildings, either detached or row type (e.g., townhouses); with or without attached garage.

Distinguishing Feature – The bottom floor is at or above ground level (grade) on at least one side. *

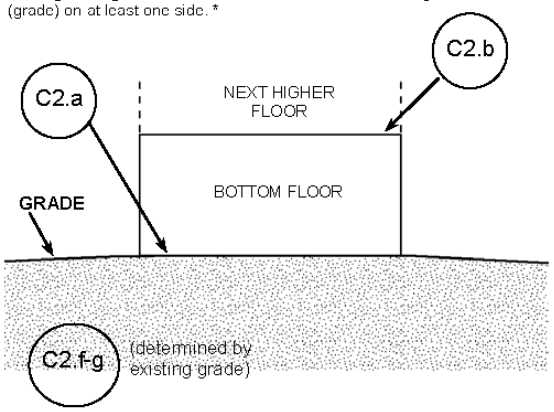


DIAGRAM 2

All single- and multiple-floor buildings with basement (other than split-level) and high-rise buildings with basement, either detached or row type (e.g., townhouses); with or without attached garage.

Distinguishing Feature – The bottom floor (basement or underground garage) is below ground level (grade) on all sides. Buildings constructed above crawl spaces that are below grade on all sides should also use this diagram.*

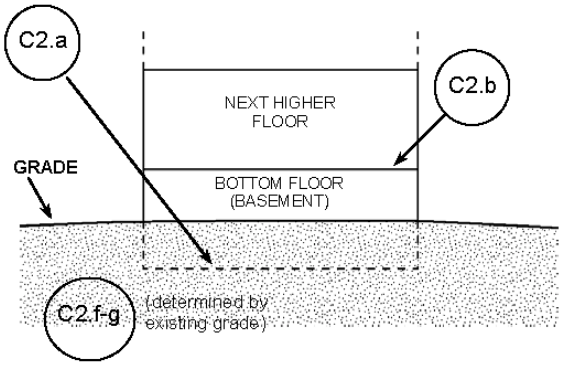


DIAGRAM 3

All split-level buildings that are slab-on-grade, either detached or row type (e.g., townhouses); with or without attached garage.

Distinguishing Feature – The bottom floor (excluding garage) is at or above ground level (grade) on at least one side .*

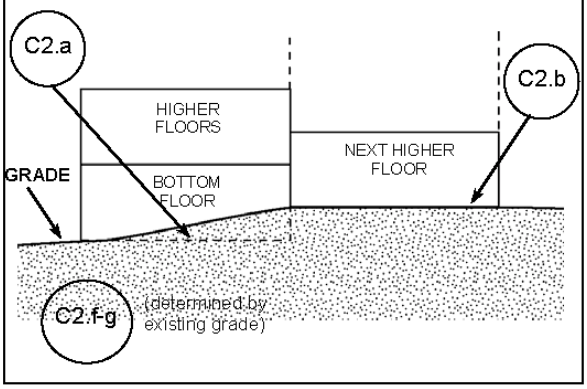
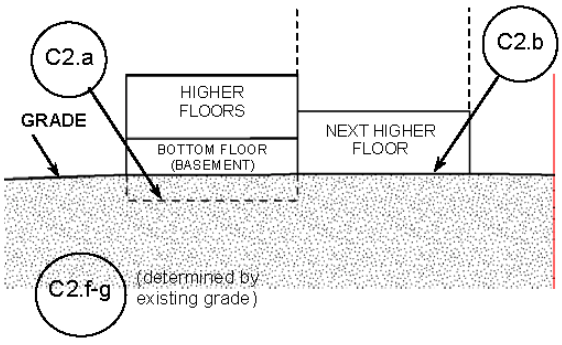


DIAGRAM 4

All split-level buildings (other than slab-on-grade), either detached or row type (e.g., townhouses); with or without attached garage.

Distinguishing Feature – The bottom floor (basement or underground garage) is below ground level (grade) on all sides. Buildings constructed above crawl spaces that are below grade on all sides should also use this diagram. *



* A floor that is below ground level (grade) on all sides is considered a basement even if the floor is used for living purposes, or as an office, garage, workshop, etc.

DIAGRAM 5

All buildings elevated on piers, posts, piles, columns, or parallel shear walls. No obstructions below the elevated floor.

Distinguishing Feature – For all zones, the area below the elevated floor is open, with no obstruction to flow of flood waters (open lattice work and/or readily removable insect screening is permissible).

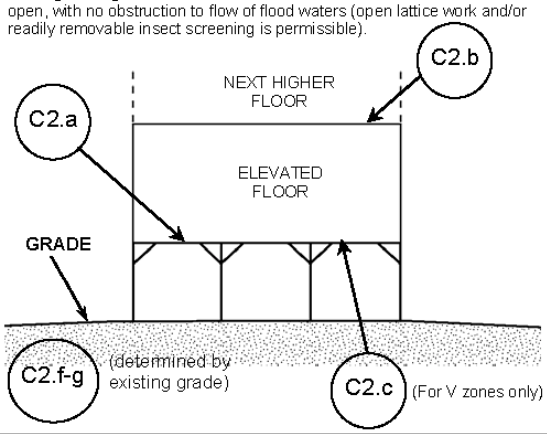


DIAGRAM 6

All buildings elevated on piers, posts, piles, columns, or parallel shear walls with full or partial enclosure below the elevated floor.

Distinguishing Feature – For all zones, the area below the elevated floor is enclosed, either partially or fully. In A Zones, the partially or fully enclosed area below the elevated floor is with or without openings** present in the walls of the enclosure. Indicate information about enclosure size and openings in Section A – Property Information.

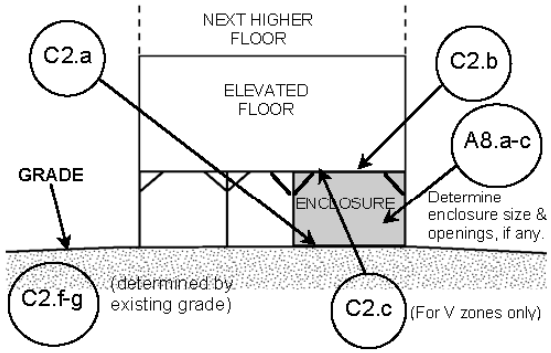


DIAGRAM 7

All buildings elevated on full-story foundation walls with a partially or fully enclosed area below the elevated floor. This includes walkout levels, where at least one side is at or above grade. The principal use of this building is located in the elevated floors of the building.

Distinguishing Feature – For all zones, the area below the elevated floor is enclosed, either partially or fully. In A Zones, the partially or fully enclosed area below the elevated floor is with or without openings** present in the walls of the enclosure. Indicate information about enclosure size and openings in Section A – Property Information.

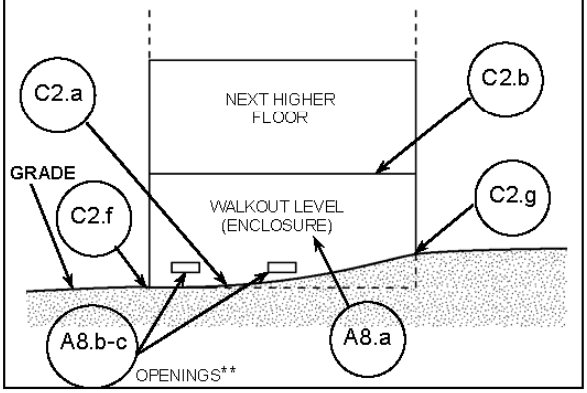
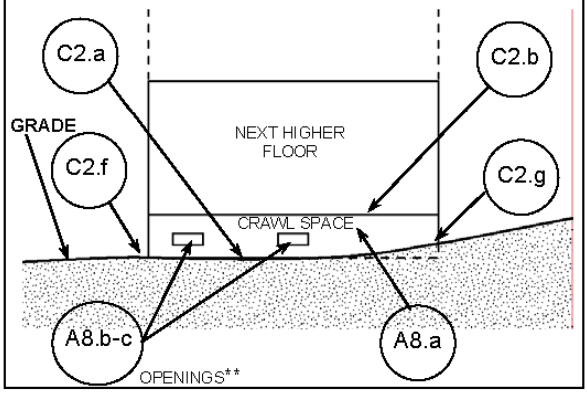


DIAGRAM 8

All buildings elevated on a crawl space with the floor of the crawl space at or above grade on at least one side, with or without an attached garage.

Distinguishing Feature – For all zones, the area below the first floor is enclosed by solid or partial perimeter walls. In all A zones, the crawl space is with or without openings** present in the walls of the crawl space. Indicate information about crawl space size and openings in Section A – Property Information.



** An "opening" is defined as a permanent opening in a wall that allows for the free passage of water automatically in both directions without human intervention. Under the NFIP, a minimum of two openings is required for enclosures or crawl spaces with a total net area of not less than one square inch for every square foot of area enclosed. Each opening must be on different sides of the enclosed area. If a building has more than one enclosed area, each area must have openings on exterior walls to allow floodwater to directly enter. The bottom of the openings must be no higher than one foot above the grade underneath the flood vents. Alternatively, you may submit a certification by a registered professional engineer or architect that the design will allow for the automatic equalization of hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls. A window, a door, or a garage door is not considered an opening.

FEMA

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

ELEVATION CERTIFICATE

AND

INSTRUCTIONS

OLD EDITION

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM
ELEVATION CERTIFICATE

PAPERWORK BURDEN DISCLOSURE NOTICE

FEMA Form 81-31

The public reporting burden for this form is estimated to be 3.0 hours per response. The burden estimate includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the needed data, and completing, reviewing, and submitting the form. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless a valid OMB control number appears in the upper right corner of this form. Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing this burden to: Information Collections Management, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street, SW, Washington, DC 20472, Paperwork Reduction Project (3067-0077). NOTE: Please do not send your completed form to the above address.

PURPOSE OF THE ELEVATION CERTIFICATE

The Elevation Certificate is an important administrative tool of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). It is to be used to provide elevation information necessary to ensure compliance with community floodplain management ordinances, to determine the proper insurance premium rate, and to support a request for a Letter of Map Amendment or Revision (LOMA or LOMR-F).

The Elevation Certificate is required in order to properly rate post-FIRM buildings, which are buildings constructed after publication of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), for flood insurance Zones A1-A30, AE, AH, A (with BFE), VE, V1-V30, V (with BFE), AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AR/A1-A30, AR/AH, and AR/AO. The Elevation Certificate is not required for pre-FIRM buildings unless the building is being rated under the optional post-FIRM flood insurance rules.

As part of the agreement for making flood insurance available in a community, the NFIP requires the community to adopt a floodplain management ordinance that specifies minimum requirements for reducing flood losses. One such requirement is for the community to obtain the elevation of the lowest floor (including basement) of all new and substantially improved buildings and maintain a record of such information. The Elevation Certificate provides a way for a community to comply with this requirement.

Use of this certificate does not provide a waiver of the flood insurance purchase requirement. Only a LOMA or LOMR-F from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) can amend the FIRM and remove the Federal mandate for a lending institution to require the purchase of flood insurance. However, the lending institution has the option of requiring flood insurance even if a LOMA/LOMR-F has been issued by FEMA. The Elevation Certificate may be used to support a LOMA or LOMR-F request. Lowest floor and lowest adjacent grade elevations certified by a surveyor or engineer will be required if the certificate is used to support a LOMA or LOMR-F request.

This certificate is used only to certify building elevations. A separate certificate is required for floodproofing. Under the NFIP, non-residential buildings can be floodproofed up to or above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). A floodproofed building is a building that has been designed and constructed to be watertight (substantially impermeable to floodwaters) below the BFE. Floodproofing of residential buildings is not permitted under the NFIP unless FEMA has granted the community an exception for residential floodproofed basements. The community must adopt standards for design and construction of floodproofed basements before FEMA will grant a basement exception. For both floodproofed non-residential buildings and residential floodproofed basements in communities that have been granted an exception by FEMA, a floodproofing certificate is required.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

O.M.B. No. 3067-0077
Expires December 31, 2005

ELEVATION CERTIFICATE

Important: Read the instructions on pages 1 - 7.

SECTION A - PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION

	For Insurance Company Use:
BUILDING OWNER'S NAME	Policy Number
BUILDING STREET ADDRESS (Including Apt., Unit, Suite, and/or Bldg. No.) OR P.O. ROUTE AND BOX NO.	Company NAIC Number
CITY STATE ZIP CODE	

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION (Lot and Block Numbers, Tax Parcel Number, Legal Description, etc.)

BUILDING USE (e.g., Residential, Non-residential, Addition, Accessory, etc. Use a Comments area, if necessary.)

LATITUDE/LONGITUDE (OPTIONAL) (##° - ## ' - ##.## " or ##.#####°) HORIZONTAL DATUM: |__| NAD 1927 |__| NAD 1983 SOURCE: |__| GPS (Type): _____ |__| USGS Quad Map |__| Other _____

SECTION B - FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM) INFORMATION

B1. NFIP COMMUNITY NAME & COMMUNITY NUMBER	B2. COUNTY NAME	B3. STATE

B4. MAP AND PANEL NUMBER	B5. SUFFIX	B6. FIRM INDEX DATE	B7. FIRM PANEL EFFECTIVE/REVISED DATE	B8. FLOOD ZONE(S)	B9. BASE FLOOD ELEVATION(S) (Zone AO, use depth of flooding)

B10. Indicate the source of the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) data or base flood depth entered in B9.
|__| FIS Profile |__| FIRM |__| Community Determined |__| Other (Describe): _____

B11. Indicate the elevation datum used for the BFE in B9: |__| NGVD 1929 |__| NAVD 1988 |__| Other (Describe): _____

B12. Is the building located in a Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) area or Otherwise Protected Area (OPA)? |__| Yes |__| No
Designation Date:_____

SECTION C - BUILDING ELEVATION INFORMATION (SURVEY REQUIRED)

C1. Building elevations are based on: |__|Construction Drawings* |__|Building Under Construction* |__|Finished Construction
*A new Elevation Certificate will be required when construction of the building is complete.

C2. Building Diagram Number _____ (Select the building diagram most similar to the building for which this certificate is being completed - see pages 6 and 7. If no diagram accurately represents the building, provide a sketch or photograph.)

C3. Elevations – Zones A1-A30, AE, AH, A (with BFE), VE, V1-V30, V (with BFE), AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AR/A1-A30, AR/AH, AR/AO
Complete Items C3.a-i below according to the building diagram specified in Item C2. State the datum used. If the datum is different from the datum used for the BFE in Section B, convert the datum to that used for the BFE. Show field measurements and datum conversion calculation. Use the space provided or the Comments area of Section D or Section G, as appropriate, to document the datum conversion.
Datum _____ Conversion/Comments _____
Elevation reference mark used_____ Does the elevation reference mark used appear on the FIRM? |__| Yes |__| No

- ❑ a) Top of bottom floor (including basement or enclosure) _____ . ___ ft.(m)
- ❑ b) Top of next higher floor _____ . ___ ft.(m)
- ❑ c) Bottom of lowest horizontal structural member (V zones only) _____ . ___ ft.(m)
- ❑ d) Attached garage (top of slab) _____ . ___ ft.(m)
- ❑ e) Lowest elevation of machinery and/or equipment servicing the building (Describe in a Comments area.) _____ . ___ ft.(m)
- ❑ f) Lowest adjacent (finished) grade (LAG) _____ . ___ ft.(m)
- ❑ g) Highest adjacent (finished) grade (HAG) _____ . ___ ft.(m)
- ❑ h) No. of permanent openings (flood vents) within 1 ft. above adjacent grade _____
- ❑ i) Total area of all permanent openings (flood vents) in C3.h _____ sq. in. (sq. cm)

License Number, Embossed Seal, Signature, and Date

SECTION D - SURVEYOR, ENGINEER, OR ARCHITECT CERTIFICATION

This certification is to be signed and sealed by a land surveyor, engineer, or architect authorized by law to certify elevation information.
I certify that the information in Sections A, B, and C on this certificate represents my best efforts to interpret the data available.
I understand that any false statement may be punishable by fine or imprisonment under 18 U.S. Code, Section 1001.

CERTIFIER'S NAME LICENSE NUMBER

TITLE COMPANY NAME

ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP CODE

SIGNATURE DATE TELEPHONE

IMPORTANT: In these spaces, copy the corresponding information from Section A.			For Insurance Company Use:
BUILDING STREET ADDRESS (Including Apt., Unit, Suite, and/or Bldg. No.) OR P.O. ROUTE AND BOX NO.			Policy Number
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	Company NAIC Number

SECTION D - SURVEYOR, ENGINEER, OR ARCHITECT CERTIFICATION (CONTINUED)

Copy both sides of this Elevation Certificate for (1) community official, (2) insurance agent/company, and (3) building owner.

COMMENTS

|__| Check here if attachments

SECTION E - BUILDING ELEVATION INFORMATION (SURVEY NOT REQUIRED) FOR ZONE AO AND ZONE A (WITHOUT BFE)

For Zone AO and Zone A (without BFE), complete Items E1. through E5. If the Elevation Certificate is intended for use as supporting information for a LOMA or LOMR-F, Section C must be completed.

E1. Building Diagram Number _____ (Select the building diagram most similar to the building for which this certificate is being completed – see pages 6 and 7. If no diagram accurately represents the building, provide a sketch or photograph.)

E2. The top of the bottom floor (including basement or enclosure) of the building is |__|__| ft. (m) |__|__| in. (cm) |__| above or |__| below (check one) the highest adjacent grade. (Use natural grade, if available.)

E3. For Building Diagrams 6-8 with openings (see page 7), the next higher floor or elevated floor (elevation b) of the building is |__|__| ft. (m) |__|__|in. (cm) above the highest adjacent grade. Complete Items C3.h and C3.i on front of form.

E4. The top of the platform of machinery and/or equipment servicing the building is |__|__| ft. (m) |__|__| in. (cm) |__| above or |__| below (check one) the highest adjacent grade. (Use natural grade, if available.)

E5. For Zone AO only: If no flood depth number is available, is the top of the bottom floor elevated in accordance with the community's floodplain management ordinance? |__| Yes |__| No |__| Unknown. The local official must certify this information in Section G.

SECTION F - PROPERTY OWNER (OR OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE) CERTIFICATION

The property owner or owner's authorized representative who completes Sections A, B, C (Items C3.h and C3.i only), and E for Zone A (without a FEMA-issued or community-issued BFE) or Zone AO must sign here. *The statements in Sections A, B, C, and E are correct to the best of my knowledge.*

PROPERTY OWNER'S OR OWNER'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME

ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
SIGNATURE	DATE	TELEPHONE	

COMMENTS

|__| Check here if attachments

SECTION G - COMMUNITY INFORMATION (OPTIONAL)

The local official who is authorized by law or ordinance to administer the community's floodplain management ordinance can complete Sections A, B, C (or E), and G of this Elevation Certificate. Complete the applicable item(s) and sign below.

G1. |__| The information in Section C was taken from other documentation that has been signed and embossed by a licensed surveyor, engineer, or architect who is authorized by state or local law to certify elevation information. (Indicate the source and date of the elevation data in the Comments area below.)

G2. |__| A community official completed Section E for a building located in Zone A (without a FEMA-issued or community-issued BFE) or Zone AO.

G3. |__| The following information (Items G4-G9) is provided for community floodplain management purposes.

G4. PERMIT NUMBER	G5. DATE PERMIT ISSUED	G6. DATE CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE/OCCUPANCY ISSUED

G7. This permit has been issued for: |__| New Construction |__| Substantial Improvement

G8. Elevation of as-built lowest floor (including basement) of the building is: _____ . ___ ft. (m) Datum:_____

G9. BFE or (in Zone AO) depth of flooding at the building site is: _____ . ___ ft. (m) Datum:_____

LOCAL OFFICIAL'S NAME	TITLE
COMMUNITY NAME	TELEPHONE
SIGNATURE	DATE

COMMENTS

|__| Check here if attachments

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE ELEVATION CERTIFICATE

The Elevation Certificate is to be completed by a land surveyor, engineer, or architect who is authorized by law to certify elevation information when elevation information is required for Zones A1-A30, AE, AH, A (with BFE), VE, V1-V30, V (with BFE), AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AR/A1-A30, AR/AH, or AR/AO. Community officials who are authorized by law or ordinance to provide floodplain management information may also complete this form. For Zones AO and A (without BFE), a community official, a property owner, or an owner's representative may provide information on this certificate, unless the elevations are intended for use in supporting a LOMA or LOMR-F. Certified elevations must be included if the purpose of completing the Elevation Certificate is to obtain a LOMA or LOMR-F.

In Puerto Rico only, elevations for building information and flood hazard information may be entered in meters.

SECTION A - PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION

This section identifies the building, its location, and its owner. Enter the name(s) of the building owner(s), the building's complete street address, and the lot and block number. If the building's address is different from the owner's address, enter the address of the building being certified. If the address is a rural route or a Post Office box number, enter the lot and block numbers, the tax parcel number, the legal description, or an abbreviated location description based on distance and direction from a fixed point of reference. For the purposes of this certificate, "building" means both a building and a manufactured (mobile) home.

A map may be attached to this certificate to show the location of the building on the property. A tax map, FIRM, or detailed community map is appropriate. If no map is available, provide a sketch of the property location, and the location of the building on the property. Include appropriate landmarks such as nearby roads, intersections, and bodies of water. For building use, indicate whether the building is residential, non-residential, an addition to an existing residential or non-residential building, an accessory building (e.g., garage), or other type of structure. Use the Comments area of Section F if needed.

If latitude and longitude data are available, enter them in degrees, minutes, and seconds, or in decimal degrees, taken at the center of the front of the building. Enter arc seconds to two decimal places. Indicate the horizontal datum and the source of the measurement data (for example, taken with GPS, scaled from a USGS Quad Map, etc.).

SECTION B - FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM) INFORMATION

Complete the Elevation Certificate on the basis of the FIRM in effect at the time of the certification.

The information for Section B is obtained by reviewing the FIRM panel that includes the building's location. Information about the current FIRM and a pamphlet titled "Guide to Flood Maps" are available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website at http://www.fema.gov or by calling 1-800-427-4661. If a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) or Letter of Map Revision (LOMR-F) has been issued by FEMA, please provide the letter date and case number in the Comments area of Section D or Section G, as appropriate.

Item B1. NFIP Community Name & Community Number. Enter the complete name of the community in which the building is located and the associated 6-digit community number. For a building that is in an area that has been annexed by one community but is shown on another community's FIRM, enter the community name and 6-digit number of the annexing community. For a newly incorporated community, use the name and 6-digit number of the new community. Under the NFIP, a "community" is any State or area or political subdivision thereof, or any Indian tribe or authorized native organization, that has authority to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations for the areas within its jurisdiction. To determine the current community number, see the NFIP *Community Status Book*, available on FEMA's website at http://www.fema.gov or by calling 1-800-427-4661.

Item B2. County Name. Enter the name of the county or counties in which the community is located. For an unincorporated area of a county, enter "unincorporated area." For an independent city, enter "independent city."

Item B3. State. Enter the 2-letter state abbreviation (for example, VA, TX, CA).

Item B4. Map and Panel Number. Enter the 10-digit number shown on the FIRM panel where the building or manufactured (mobile) home is located. The first six digits will not match the NFIP community number: 1) when the sixth digit is a "C," in which case the FIRM panel is in a countywide format; or 2) when one community has annexed land from another community but the FIRM panel has not been updated to reflect this annexation. If the sixth digit is a "C," it is followed by a four-digit map number. For maps not in countywide format, enter the "community panel number" shown on the FIRM.

Item B5. Suffix. Enter the suffix letter shown on the FIRM panel that includes the building's location.

Item B6. FIRM Index Date. Enter the effective date or map revised date shown on the FIRM Index.

Item B7. FIRM Panel Effective/Revised Date. Enter the map effective date or the map revised date shown on the FIRM panel. This will be the latest of all dates shown on the map. The current FIRM panel effective date can be determined by calling 1-800-427-4661.

Item B8. Flood Zone(s). Enter the flood zone, or flood zones, in which the building is located. All flood zones containing the letter "A" or "V" are considered Special Flood Hazard Areas. The flood zones are A, AE, A1-A30, V, VE, V1-V30, AH, AO, AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AR/A1-A30, AR/AH, and AR/AO. Each flood zone is defined in the legend of the FIRM panel on which it appears.

Item B9. Base Flood Elevation(s). Using the appropriate Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Profile, Flood Elevation Table, or FIRM panel, locate the property and enter the BFE (or base flood depth) of the building site. If the building is located in more than one flood zone in Item B8., list all appropriate BFEs in Item B9. BFEs are shown on a FIRM or FIS Profile for Zones A1-A30, AE, AH, V1-V30, VE, AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AR/A1-A30, AR/AH, and AR/AO; flood depth numbers are shown for Zone AO. Use the AR BFE if the building is located in any of Zones AR/A, AR/AE, AR/A1-A30, AR/AH, or AR/AO. In A or V zones where BFEs are not provided on the FIRM, the community may have established BFEs or obtained BFE data from other sources. For subdivisions and other developments of more than 50 lots or 5 acres, establishment of BFEs is required by the community's floodplain management ordinance. If the BFE is obtained from another source, enter the BFE in Item B9.

Item B10. Indicate the source of the BFE that you entered in Item B9.

Item B11. Indicate the elevation datum to which the elevations on the applicable FIRM are referenced.

Item B12. Indicate whether the building is located in a Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) area or Otherwise Protected Area (OPA). Federal flood insurance is prohibited in designated CBRS areas for buildings or manufactured (mobile) homes built or substantially improved after the date of the CBRS designation. An information sheet explaining CBRS areas may be obtained on FEMA's website at http://www.fema.gov or by calling 1-800-427-4661.

SECTION C - BUILDING ELEVATION INFORMATION (SURVEY REQUIRED)

Complete Section C if the building is located in any of Zones A1-A30, AE, AH, A (with BFE), VE, V1-V30, V (with BFE), AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AR/A1-A30, AR/AH, or AR/AO, or if this certificate is being used to support a LOMA or LOMR-F. If the building is located in Zone AO or Zone A (without BFE), complete Section E instead. To ensure that all required elevations are obtained, it may be necessary to enter the building (for instance, if the building has a basement or sunken living room, split-level construction, or machinery and equipment).

Surveyors may not be able to gain access to some crawl spaces to shoot the elevation of the crawl space floor. If access to the crawl space cannot be gained, use the following guidance:

- Use a yardstick or tape measure to measure the floor height to the "next higher floor," and then subtract the crawl space height from the elevation of the "next higher floor."
- Contact the local floodplain administrator of the community that the building is located in. The community may have documentation of the elevation of the crawl space floor as part of the permit issued for the building.
- If the property owner has documentation or knows the height of the crawl space floor to the next higher floor, try to verify this by looking inside the crawl space through any openings or vents.

In all three cases, provide the elevation in the Comments area and a brief description of how the elevation was obtained.

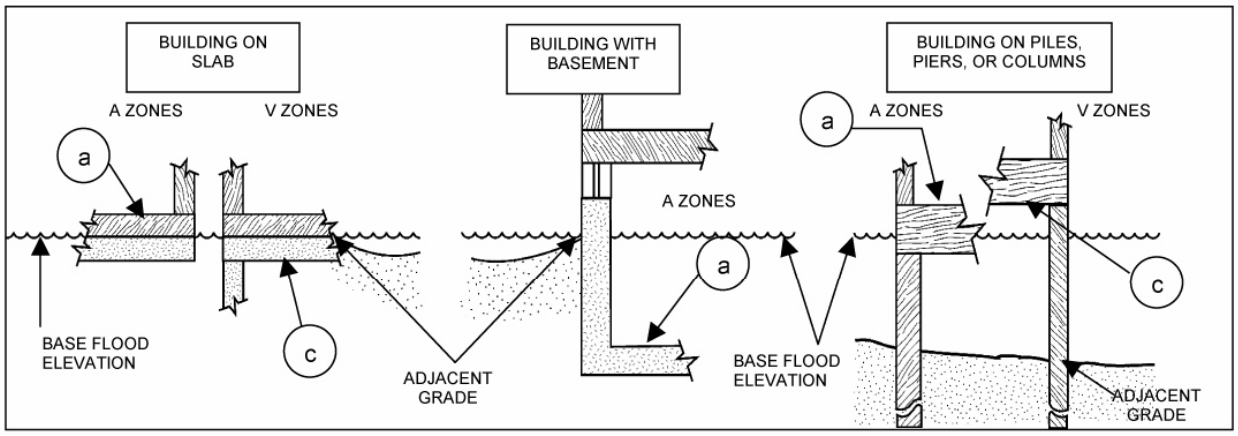
Item C1. Indicate whether the elevations to be entered in this section are based on construction drawings, a building under construction, or finished construction. For either of the first two choices, a post-construction Elevation Certificate will be

required when construction is complete. If the building is under construction, include only those elevations that can be surveyed in Items C3.a-g. Use the Comments area to provide elevations obtained from the construction plans or drawings. Select "finished construction" only when all machinery and/or equipment—furnaces, hot water heaters, heat pumps, air conditioners, and elevators and their associated equipment—have been installed and the grading around the building is completed.

Item C2. Select the diagram on pages 6 and 7 that best represents the building. Then enter the diagram number and use the diagram to identify and determine the appropriate elevations requested in Items C3.a-g. If you are unsure of the correct diagram, select the diagram that most closely resembles the building being certified, or provide a sketch or photograph of the building and enter all elevations in Items C3.a-g.

Item C3. Indicate whether the elevation reference mark (benchmark) used during the field survey is an elevation mark on the FIRM. If it is not, indicate the source and datum for the elevation. Vertical control benchmarks other than those shown on the FIRM are acceptable for elevation determinations. Show the conversion from the field survey datum used to the datum used for the BFE(s) entered in Item B9. All elevations for the certificate must be referenced to the datum on which the BFE is based. Show the datum conversion, if applicable, in this section or in the Comments area of Section D. For property experiencing ground subsidence, the most recently adjusted reference mark elevations must be used for determining building elevations. However, when subsidence is involved, the BFE should not be adjusted. Enter elevations in Items C3.a-g to the nearest tenth of a foot (nearest tenth of a meter, in Puerto Rico).

Items C3.a-d. Enter the building elevations (excluding the attached garage) indicated by the selected building diagram (Item C2.) in Items C3.a-c. If there is an attached garage, enter the elevation for top of attached garage slab in Item C3.d. (Because elevation for top of attached garage slab is self-explanatory, attached garages are not illustrated in the diagrams.) If the building is located in a V zone on the FIRM, complete Item C3.c. If the flood zone cannot be determined, enter elevations for all of Items C3.a-g. For buildings in A zones, elevations a, b, d, and e should be measured at the top of the floor. For buildings in V zones, elevation c must be measured at the bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member of the floor (see drawing below). For buildings elevated on a crawl space, Diagram 8, enter the elevation of the top of the crawl space floor in Item C3.a, whether or not the crawl space has openings (flood vents). *If any item does not apply to the building, enter "N/A" for not applicable.*



Item C3.e. Enter the lowest elevation of machinery and/or equipment—furnaces, hot water heaters, heat pumps, air conditioners, and elevators and their associated equipment—in an attached garage or enclosure or on an open utility platform that provides utility services for the building. If the machinery and/or equipment is mounted to a wall, pile, etc., enter the platform elevation of the machinery and/or equipment. Indicate machinery/equipment type in the Comments area of Section D or Section G, as appropriate. *If this item does not apply to the building, enter "N/A" for not applicable.*

Items C3.f-g. Adjacent grade is defined as the elevation of the ground, sidewalk, patio slab, or deck support immediately next to the building. If the certificate is to be used for a LOMA or LOMR-F, provide in the Comments area the lowest adjacent grade elevation measured at the deck support or stairs if that elevation is lower than the building's lowest adjacent grade. For

Zone AO, use the natural grade elevation, if available. This measurement must be to the nearest tenth of a foot (nearest tenth of a meter, in Puerto Rico) if this certificate is being used to support a request for a LOMA or LOMR-F.

Items C3.h-i. Enter the number of permanent openings (flood vents) in the walls supporting the building, including the attached garage, that are no higher than 1.0 foot above the adjacent grade. Determine the total area of all such openings in square inches (square cm, in Puerto Rico), and enter the total in Item C3.i. If the building has no permanent openings (flood vents) within 1.0 foot above adjacent grade, enter "0" (zero) for each of Items C3.h and C3.i. Enter in the Comments area whether the openings are on the foundation walls of the building and/or on the walls of the garage.

SECTION D - SURVEYOR, ENGINEER, OR ARCHITECT CERTIFICATION

Complete as indicated. This section of the Elevation Certificate may be signed by only a land surveyor, engineer, or architect who is authorized by law to certify elevation information. Place embossed seal and signature in the box next to elevations in Section C. A flat stamp is acceptable only in states that do not authorize use of an embossed seal over the signature of a professional. You are certifying that the information in Sections A, B, and C on this certificate represents your best efforts to interpret the data available and that you understand that any false statement may be punishable by fine or imprisonment under 18 U.S. Code, Section 1001. Use the Comments area of Section D, on the back of the certificate, to provide datum, elevation, or other relevant information not specified on the front.

SECTION E - BUILDING ELEVATION INFORMATION (SURVEY NOT REQUIRED) FOR ZONE AO & ZONE A (WITHOUT BFE)

Complete Section E if the building is located in Zone AO or Zone A (without BFE). Otherwise, complete Section C instead.

Item E1. Select the diagram on pages 6 and 7 that best represents the building; then enter the diagram number. If you are unsure of the correct diagram, select the diagram that most closely resembles the building, or provide a sketch or photograph. Explain in the Comments area if the measurement provided under Item E.2, E.3, or E.4 is based on the "natural grade."

Item E2. Enter the height in feet and inches (meters and centimeters, in Puerto Rico) of the top of the bottom floor (as indicated in the applicable diagram) above or below the highest adjacent grade (HAG). For post-FIRM buildings in Zone AO, the community's floodplain management ordinance requires that this value equal or exceed the base flood depth on the FIRM. Buildings in Zone A (without BFE) may qualify for a lower insurance rate if an engineered BFE is developed at the site.

Item E3. For Building Diagrams 6-8 with proper openings (see page 7), enter the height in feet and inches (meters and centimeters, in Puerto Rico) of the next higher floor or elevated floor (as indicated in the applicable diagram) above the highest adjacent grade (HAG). Be sure that you have completed Items C3.h and C3.i on the front of the form to show the number of permanent openings (flood vents) within 1 foot above adjacent grade and the total area of the openings.

Item E4. Enter the height in feet and inches, in relation to the highest adjacent grade next to the building, of the platform that supports the machinery and/or equipment servicing the building. Indicate machinery/equipment type in the Comments area of Section E. *If this item does not apply to the building, enter "N/A" for not applicable.*

Item E5. For those communities where this base flood depth is not available, the community will need to determine whether the top of the bottom floor is elevated in accordance with the community's floodplain management ordinance.

SECTION F - PROPERTY OWNER (OR OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE) CERTIFICATION

Complete as indicated. This section is provided for certification of measurements taken by a property owner or property owner's representative when responding to Sections A, B, C (Items C3.h and C3.i only), and E. The address entered in this section must be the actual mailing address of the property owner or property owner's representative who provided the information on the certificate.

SECTION G - COMMUNITY INFORMATION (OPTIONAL)

Complete as indicated. The community official who is authorized by law or ordinance to administer the community's floodplain management ordinance can complete Sections A, B, C (or E), and G of this Elevation Certificate. If the authorized community official completes Sections C, E, or G, complete the appropriate item(s) and sign this section.

Check **Item G1.** if Section C is completed with elevation data from other documentation, including elevations obtained from the Community Rating System Elevation Software, that has been signed and embossed by a licensed surveyor, engineer, or architect who is authorized by law to certify elevation information. Indicate the source of the elevation data and the date obtained in the Comments area of Section G. If you are both a community official and a licensed land surveyor, engineer, or architect authorized by law to certify elevation information, and you performed the actual survey for a building in Zones A1-A30, AE, AH, A (with BFE), VE, V1-V30, V (with BFE), AR, AR/A, AR/A1-A30, AR/AE, AR/AH, or AR/AO, you must also complete Section D.

Check **Item G2.** if information is entered in Section E by the community for a building in Zone A (without a FEMA-issued or community-issued BFE) or Zone AO.

Check **Item G3.** if the information in Items G4-G9 has been completed for community floodplain management purposes to document the as-built lowest floor elevation of the building. Section C of the Elevation Certificate records the elevation of various building components but does not determine the lowest floor of the building or whether the building, as constructed, complies with the community's floodplain management ordinance. This must be done by the community. Items G4-G9 provide a way to document these determinations.

Item G4. Permit Number. Enter the permit number or other identifier to key the Elevation Certificate to the permit issued for the building.

Item G5. Date Permit Issued. Enter the date the permit was issued for the building.

Item G6. Date Certificate of Compliance Issued. Enter the date that the Certificate of Compliance or Occupancy or similar written official documentation of as-built lowest floor elevation was issued by the community as evidence that all work authorized by the floodplain development permit has been completed in accordance with the community's floodplain management laws or ordinances.

Item G7. New Construction or Substantial Improvement. Check the applicable box. "Substantial Improvement" means any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a building, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the building before the start of construction of the improvement. The term includes buildings that have incurred substantial damage, regardless of the actual repair work performed.

Item G8. As-built lowest floor elevation. Enter the elevation of the lowest floor (including basement) when the construction of the building is completed and a final inspection has been made to confirm that the building is built in accordance with the permit, the approved plans, and the community's floodplain management laws or ordinances. Indicate the elevation datum used.

Item G9. BFE. Using the appropriate FIRM panel, FIS, or other data source, locate the property and enter the BFE (or base flood depth) of the building site. Indicate the elevation datum used.

Enter your name, title, and telephone number, and the name of the community. Sign and enter the date in the appropriate blanks.

BUILDING DIAGRAMS

The following eight diagrams illustrate various types of buildings. Compare the features of the building being certified with the features shown in the diagrams and select the diagram most applicable. Enter the diagram number in Item C2. and the elevations in Items C3.a-C3.g.

In A zones, the floor elevation is taken at the top finished surface of the floor indicated; in V zones, the floor elevation is taken at the bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member (see drawing in instructions for Section C).

DIAGRAM 1

All slab-on-grade single- and multiple-floor buildings (other than split-level) and high-rise buildings, either detached or row type (e.g., townhouses); with or without attached garage.

Distinguishing Feature – The bottom floor is at or above ground level (grade) on at least one side. *

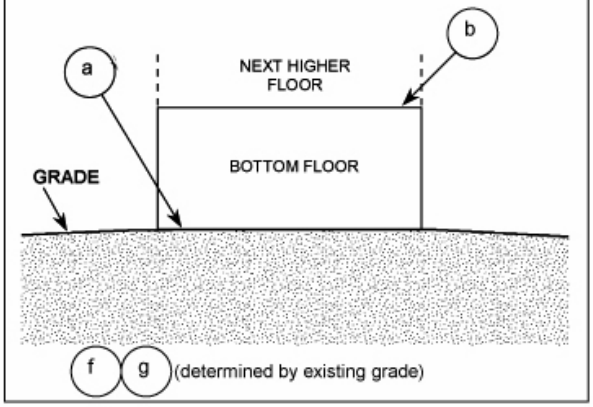


DIAGRAM 2

All single- and multiple-floor buildings with basement (other than split-level) and high-rise buildings with basement, either detached or row type (e.g., townhouses); with or without attached garage.

Distinguishing Feature – The bottom floor (basement or underground garage) is below ground level (grade) on all sides. Buildings constructed above crawl spaces that are below grade on all sides should also use this diagram.*

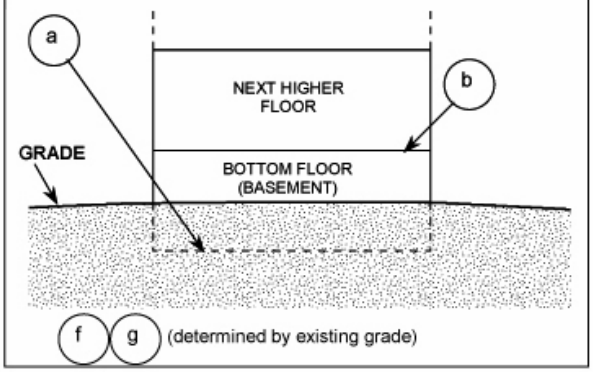


DIAGRAM 3

All split-level buildings that are slab-on-grade, either detached or row type (e.g., townhouses); with or without attached garage.

Distinguishing Feature – The bottom floor (excluding garage) is at or above ground level (grade) on at least one side .*

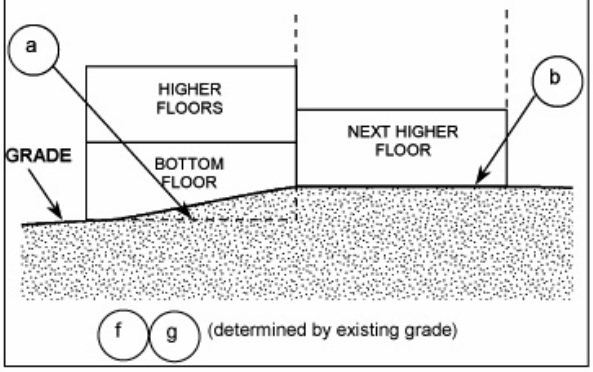
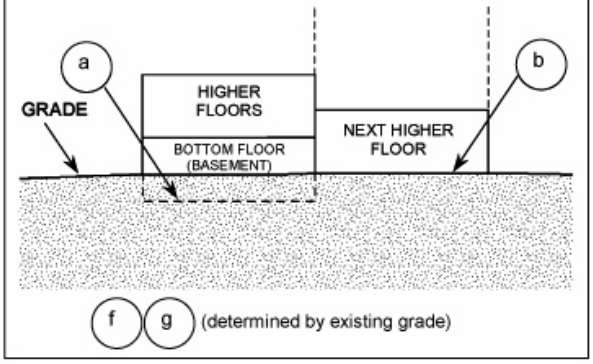


DIAGRAM 4

All split-level buildings (other than slab-on-grade), either detached or row type (e.g., townhouses); with or without attached garage.

Distinguishing Feature – The bottom floor (basement or underground garage) is below ground level (grade) on all sides. Buildings constructed above crawl spaces that are below grade on all sides should also use this diagram. *



* A floor that is below ground level (grade) on all sides is considered a basement even if the floor is used for living purposes, or as an office, garage, workshop, etc.

DIAGRAM 5

All buildings elevated on piers, posts, piles, columns, or parallel shear walls. No obstructions below the elevated floor.

Distinguishing Feature – For all zones, the area below the elevated floor is open, with no obstruction to flow of flood waters (open lattice work and/or readily removable insect screening is permissible).

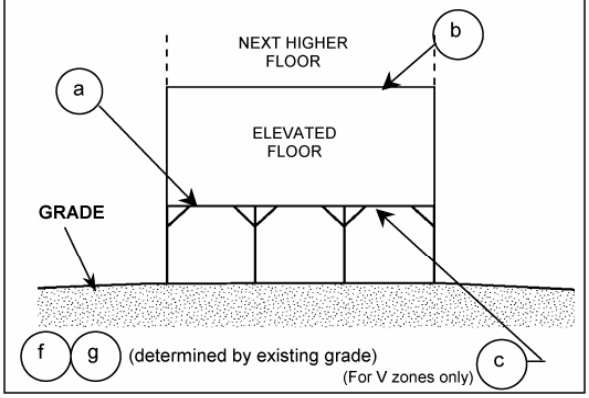


DIAGRAM 6

All buildings elevated on piers, posts, piles, columns, or parallel shear walls with full or partial enclosure below the elevated floor.

Distinguishing Feature – For all zones, the area below the elevated floor is enclosed, either partially or fully. In A Zones, the partially or fully enclosed area below the elevated floor is with or without openings** present in the walls of the enclosure. Indicate information about openings in Section C, Building Elevation Information (Survey Required).

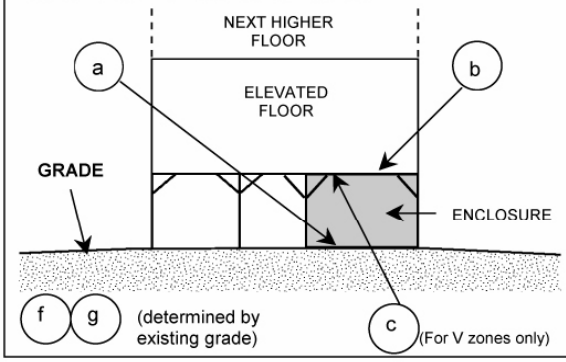


DIAGRAM 7

All buildings elevated on full-story foundation walls with a partially or fully enclosed area below the elevated floor. This includes walkout levels, where at least one side is at or above grade. The principal use of this building is located in the elevated floors of the building.

Distinguishing Feature – For all zones, the area below the elevated floor is enclosed, either partially or fully. In A Zones, the partially or fully enclosed area below the elevated floor is with or without openings** present in the walls of the enclosure. Indicate information about openings in Section C, Building Elevation Information (Survey Required).

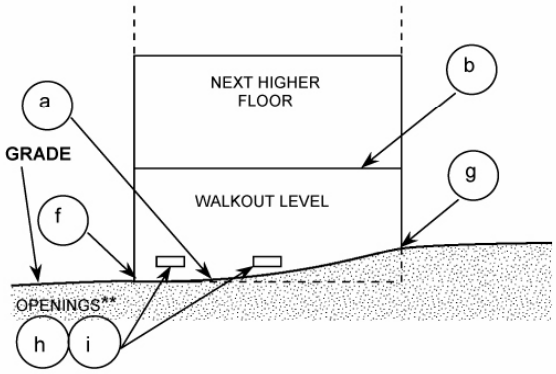
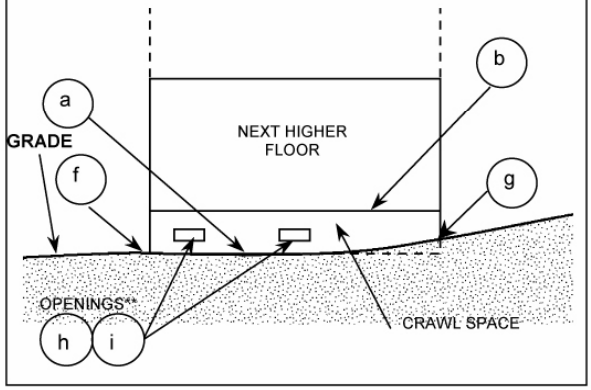


DIAGRAM 8

All buildings elevated on a crawl space with the floor of the crawl space at or above grade on at least one side, with or without an attached garage.

Distinguishing Feature – For all zones, the area below the first floor is enclosed by solid or partial perimeter walls. In all A zones, the crawl space is with or without openings** present in the walls of the crawl space. Indicate information about the openings in Section C, Building Elevation Information (Survey Required).



** An "opening" (flood vent) is defined as a permanent opening in a wall that allows for the free passage of water automatically in both directions without human intervention. Under the NFIP, a minimum of two openings is required for enclosures or crawl spaces with a total net area of not less than one square inch for every square foot of area enclosed. Each opening must be on different sides of the enclosed area. If a building has more than one enclosed area, each area must have openings on exterior walls to allow floodwater to directly enter. The bottom of the openings must be no higher than one foot above the grade underneath the flood vents. Alternatively, you may submit a certification by a registered professional engineer or architect that the design will allow for the automatic equalization of hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls. A window, a door, or a garage door is not considered an opening.