

# FEMA FY20 Guidance and Standards Maintenance Informational Summary

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

FEMA has a maintenance plan for these guidelines and standards and issues updates annually. This summary relates to the 2020 update, which FEMA plans to release in November.

The annual cycle typically includes both significant changes to policy initiatives and simple maintenance. FEMA identifies these needs through routine reviews and from subject matter experts. The resulting changes are identified as significant, simple, or minor.

## Significant Changes

Topic	Description
<b>2D Floodways</b>	Revise the standards and guidance on modeling and mapping the regulatory floodway using a two-dimensional (2D) model. Update standards (SIDs) associated with floodway analyses and technical approaches and outputs. Also update multiple technical references, guidance documents, and templates.
<b>Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Compliance</b>	Create SIDs and guidance to clarify how to issue consistency determinations for the CZMA.
<b>Automated Map Production (AMP)</b>	Revise associated SIDs, technical references, guidance documents, and templates to allow flexibility in Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panel layout as the AMP tool is introduced into the Risk MAP workflow per SID 630.
<b>Changes Since Last FIRM (CSLF)</b>	Revise associated SIDs and the CSLF guidance document to integrate FEMA's automated CSLF utility.
<b>Key Decision Point (KDP)</b>	Revise the KDP guidance and associated SIDs to allow more ownership by the FEMA Regional Offices.
<b>FEMA IT Security/Privacy</b>	Create SID to increase the Risk MAP program's safe handling and security of Personally Identifiable Information (PII).
<b>MT-2 Guidance</b>	Create guidance document with more direction and clarity on developing and submitting Letters of Map Revisions and other MT-2 documents.



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## Simple Changes

Item #	Doc. Type	Document Title/SID #	Description
1	Standards and Guidance	SIDs 89, 96	Update to clarify the use of regulatory products and how these standards apply.
2	Standards and Guidance	SIDs 101, 229, 230, 256, 265, 274, 279, 507, Areas of Mitigation Interest, General Hydraulics Considerations, MT-1 Technical, Shallow Flooding Analyses and Mapping; MIP Guidance	Update to clarify standard and/or guidance information, and to align to current standard operating procedures.
3	Guidance	Changes Since Last FIRM, Flood Risk Database	Update to align information to current standard operating procedures for automated creation of CSLF.
4	Guidance	Documentation of Endangered Species Act Compliance for Conditional Letters of Map Change (LOMC)	Update to align with new documentation process, and to provide greater detail on the options and requirements for LOMC applicants.
5	Guidance	Flood Risk Assessments	Update several associated guidance documents to align with proposed standards updates, and to enhance discussions about grid dataset quality.
6	Guidance	Alluvial Fans, Coastal Wave Determination, Combined Coastal and Riverine Floodplains, Contiguous Community Matching, Data Capture - Workflow Details, Database Verification Tool (DVT), FIRM Database, FIRM Graphics, Floodway Analysis and Mapping, Levee, LOMR Incorporation, Mapping Base Flood Elevations on Flood Insurance Rate Maps, Profile Baseline, Riverine and Floodplain Boundaries	Update to edit and refine parts associated with proposed 2D floodway changes, and to incorporate changes resulting from revisions to flood profile SIDs.
7	Technical References, Guidance and Template	FIS Report	Update to accommodate proposed 2D floodway changes as well as other updates to align with standard operating procedures, and previous SID and guidance changes.

<b>8</b>	Standards	New Standard	New standards to incorporate Privacy and IT Security requirements.
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## Minor Changes

Minor changes to identified standards and guidance do not have any impact to current intent, nor do they have any regional or stakeholder impact. These changes are only intended to improve consistency or clarity in language, and / or correct minor errors (e.g. typos).

<b>SIDs</b>
103, 232, 235, 264, 272, 280, 414, 415, 417, 424, 443, 628
<b>Guidance Documents</b>
Physical Map Revision (PMR)
Flood Risk Products Checklists
Levee

## Topics reviewed for 2020 cycle

As part of the routine maintenance cycle for 2020, FEMA reviewed documents related to the following topics. No revised document or template is being published for those that did not need updates.

Dam Flood Risk Products	Dams
Discovery	Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Report
FIS Tables	FIS/Flood Insurance Rate Map
Flood Profiles	Flood Risk Database
Flood Risk Datasets	Levee Flood Risk Products
Physical Map Revision	Projections and Coordinate Systems
Shallow Flooding	Coastal - Analysis

If you have comments or suggestions about FEMA's guidelines and standards, contact us by email at [FEMA.GS@riskmapcds.com](mailto:FEMA.GS@riskmapcds.com).