

Risk MAP Guidelines and Standards (G&S) 2021 Maintenance Cycle

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.

FEMA has a maintenance plan for these guidelines and standards and issues updates annually. This summary relates to the 2021 update, which FEMA plans to release in November 2021.

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.

If you have any questions, please contact fema-gs@fema.dhs.gov.

Topics Reviewed for 2021 Cycle

As part of the routine maintenance cycle for 2021, FEMA has reviewed documents related to the following topics. No revised document or template is being published for those that did not need updates.

Quality Management	Map Format and Layout
FIRM Graphic Standards	Base Level Engineering
Metadata	Prelim Distribution
MIP	Data Capture
Post-Flood Tools	Stakeholder Engagement (ad hoc)
Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA)	Flood Insurance Rate Map Database//National Flood Hazard Layer (ad hoc)
Letter of Map Revision (LOMR)	Documentation of Endangered Species Act compliance for Conditional Letter of Map Change (CLOMCs) (ad hoc)
Mitigation Planning	Levees, Flood Risk Products (FRPs) (ad hoc)
Coastal – Waves	Dams FRPs (ad hoc)



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Significant Change Topics

Topic	Description
Flood Risk Products	Proposed updates to clarify requirements and quality checks associated with raster quality.
Potential criteria for removal of effective Zone As that appear as disconnected or erroneous floodplains	The proposed updates will outline some specific criteria that if met, may allow some effective Zone A floodplain areas, that appear to be hydraulically disconnected and demonstrated to be erroneous by engineering or scientific data, to be removed during a Risk MAP study update.
Reimbursable Appeals	Establish language in FEMA guidance and standards to align with the statute regarding reimbursement of appeals.

Simple Changes

Listed below is a table that describes the other simple maintenance items with a short summary of the proposed changes to standards, guidance and related documents.

Item #	Doc. Type	Doc. Title/SID #	Description
1	Standard	174, 180, 371, 429	Updating to align with current MIP submittal and standard operating procedures.
2	Standard	175	Updating to correct language relating to draft vs. preliminary submittals.
3	Standard	176	Updating to revise language to accommodate Automated Map Production (AMP) created products.
4	Standard	644	Updating new Standard to address Alluvial Fan modeling.
5	Standard	645	Updating to potentially allow for removal of erroneous Special Flood Hazard Area when verified by engineering or scientific data.
6	Guidance	Appeal and Comment Processing	Update processing guidance and standards to strengthen and clarify language regarding the appeals reimbursement policy.
7	Guidance	Alluvial Fans	Updating to include edits and refinements associated with the 2D Floodway Significant Update.
8	Guidance	MT-2	Updating to correct broken website links, to include procedure updates, and to align with verified best-practice document currently in development.
9	Guidance	Metadata, Quality Management for Flood Risk Projects, Mapping Information Platform (MIP), Post-Flood Hazard Verification/Recovery Tools, Accepting	Updating to correct broken website links and to refresh program terminology.

Item #	Doc. Type	Doc. Title/SID #	Description
		Numerical Models for Use in the NFIP	
10	Guidance	Riverine Mapping and Floodplain Boundaries	Updating to align with new potential standard that will set guidance for the potential removal of erroneous SFHAs.
11	Guidance	Base Level Engineering	Updating to clarify application of standards, specifications, and standard operating procedures for regulatory-ready Base Level Engineering data and to reflect evolving BLE approaches.
12	Guidance	Coastal Wave Runup and Overtopping	Updating to add Calculation of Incident Wave Height and Slope for use with Technical Advisory Committee for Water Retaining Structures (TAW) Wave Runup Method Guidance as an appendix; the Calculation of Incident Wave Height and Slope for use with TAW Wave Runup Method Guidance will be retired.
13	Guidance	Levee	Updating to provide clarification related to 65.10 compliance reviews.
14	Guidance	Coastal Wave Determination, Coastal General Study Considerations, Documentation of Endangered Species Act Compliance for Conditional Letters of Map Change, MT-1 Technical	Updating to make corrections to document title, to update references to other guidance documents and recent standard operating procedures, and to correct broken URLs/links.
15	Guidance	Preliminary Distribution and Revised Preliminary	Updating to clarify and align with current standard operating procedures and updates to the post-preliminary process.
16	Guidance	Calculation of Incident Wave Height and Slope for use with TAW Wave Runup Method	Retiring - including as appendix in Coastal Wave Runup and Overtopping Guidance.
17	Guidance	Coastal Structures	Updating to account for Operations and Maintenance (O&M) updates and inclusion of 2% conversion factors.
18	Guidance	Coastal Overland Wave Propagation	Updating to incorporate LiMWA language and to update terminology.
19	Guidance	Notice to User	Updating to align language pertaining to corrections and updates that pertain to due process.
20	Guidance	Reimbursable Appeals	Establishing language in FEMA guidance and standards to align with the statute regarding reimbursement of appeals.
21	Guidance	Key Decision Point	Updating to align language pertaining to Letters of Final Determination (LFD) with Key Decision Point (KDP) 5 consolidation

Item #	Doc. Type	Doc. Title/SID #	Description
22	Guidance	Data Capture - Workflow Details, Data Capture General	Updating to correct broken website links, to align with BLE updates, and to reflect recent standard operating procedure changes.
23	Guidance	Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Graphics	Updating to align with the Automated Map Production (AMP) tool.
24	Technical Reference	Coordinated Needs Management Strategy (CNMS), Data Capture	Updating to correct broken website links, to align with BLE updates, and to reflect recent standard operating procedure changes.
25	Technical Reference	Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel, Domain Tables, Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Database	Updating to align with the Automated Map Production (AMP) tool.
26	Template	Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Database	Updating to align with the Automated Map Production (AMP) tool.
27	Template	Flood Risk Products Checklists	Updating to clarify requirements and quality checks associated with Flood Risk Products raster quality.
28	Template	Regulatory Checklists	Updating to align with the Automated Map Production (AMP) tool, and its impacts to the required Quality Reviews (QRs).

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).

SIDs	
313, 332, 338, 349	
Guidance Documents	Templates
National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL)	Alluvial Fan Study Metadata
Changes Since Last FIRM	Base Map Metadata
Mitigation Planning Technical Assistance	Coastal Study Metadata
Stakeholder Engagement: Introduction and Key Terms	Discovery Metadata
Stakeholder Engagement Project Planning and Discovery Process	Draft, Preliminary and Final FIRM Metadata
Stakeholder Engagement Preliminary Production Process	Flood Risk Metadata
Stakeholder Engagement Post Preliminary Due Process	Floodplain Mapping and Redelineation Metadata
	Hydraulics Metadata
	Hydrology Metadata
	Orthoimagery Metadata
	Survey Metadata
	Terrain Metadata
	Metadata XMLs

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