

Updated and New FEMA Issued Procedure Memorandums

Updated Procedure Memorandum 42 - Implementation

On June 20, 2007, FEMA issued Procedure Memorandum No. 42 (PM 42) - *Quality Control Requirements in the DFIRM Production Process*, to better align quality reviews of Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs). Although PM 42 was largely successful, FEMA recognized that further alignment of quality review steps was needed to deliver quality flood hazard maps to communities for adoption in a timely manner.

On December 1, 2008, FEMA issued an update to PM 42 – *Implementation*, that will better facilitate the quality review timelines required by PM 42, allowing mailing of final maps to communities soon after the issuance of a Letter of Final Determination (LFD). The changes will become effective on January 1, 2009. Quality Reviews 6 and 7 were the only quality review steps changed by the December 1 revision. For studies that will receive an LFD on March 1, 2009, or later, certain documents required for Quality Reviews 6 and 7 must now be submitted at the same time the study is submitted for Quality Review 5. The requirements for all other quality review steps remain the same.

FEMA expects multiple benefits from this revision for communities and stakeholders, and envisions a change to the quality review process, which will allow for a more timely delivery of mapping products to communities and other stakeholders. You may view the updated version of PM 42 on the FEMA Library at <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=2723> .

FEMA Issues New Procedure Memorandum 50 - Coastal Mapping Guidance

On December 3, 2008, FEMA released Procedure Memorandum No. 50 (PM 50)—*Policy and Procedures for Identifying and Mapping Areas Subject to Wave Heights Greater than 1.5 feet as an Informational Layer on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs)*— to better communicate risk and guide safer development in coastal areas.

PM 50 changes the mapping requirements for coastal studies. As stated in PM 50, “For all new detailed coastal study starts in Fiscal Year 2009, the landward limit of waves 1.5 feet in height will be delineated on the FIRMs and included in the DFIRM database as an informational layer with no National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) floodplain management requirements or special insurance ratings. Communities are encouraged, but not required, to adopt higher standards than the minimum NFIP requirements in these areas. The limit will be included on the preliminary FIRM; however, if a community does not want to delineate the limit on its final FIRMs, the community may provide a written request to their Regional Project Officer (RPO) with justification for such a request. PM 50 takes effect immediately. You may view PM 50 and its correlated attachment on the FEMA Library at www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3481.

You also may view all PMs on FEMA’s Web site at www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/gs_memos.