



FEMA

W-13052

September 5, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR: Write Your Own (WYO) Principal Coordinators and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Servicing Agent

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jhun de la Cruz".

FROM: Jhun de la Cruz  
Branch Chief, Underwriting  
Risk Insurance Division

SUBJECT: Public Release of October 2013 *Specific Rating Guidelines*

In response to requests from NFIP stakeholders and to explain the effects of negative elevations on flood insurance rates, FEMA is releasing the *Specific Rating Guidelines* to the general public. The *Specific Rating Guidelines* include rates for certain high-risk buildings where the lowest floor elevation is below the Base Flood Elevation (BFE), which is the flood level that has a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. These risks require an in-depth underwriting analysis before a risk premium rate can be applied.

The *Specific Rating Guidelines* may assist homeowners and other NFIP stakeholders with understanding the impact of subsidy elimination to buildings with their lowest floor below the BFE. This document, in conjunction with the NFIP *Flood Insurance Manual*, also may help licensed insurance agents and others to understand the documentation required to provide an accurate premium rate. However, please be aware that to identify property-specific rates, a property owner or renter interested in obtaining NFIP coverage should contact an insurer with specially trained underwriters who can determine the rates that will be used to issue policies for the buildings addressed in these guidelines.

You may access the *Specific Rating Guidelines* and related documentation on the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/34620>.

cc: Vendors, IBHS, FIPNC, Government Technical Representative

Required Routing: Data Processing, Marketing, Underwriting