

FEMA ADVISORY – Aug. 27, 2021

FEMA Announces New Interim Policy of Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs

A new interim FEMA policy requires certain structures in Special Flood Hazard Areas to conform to higher flood elevation standards if they use Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant funds.

FEMA published the Partial Implementation of the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard for Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs (Interim) (FEMA Policy FP-206-21-0003) to align with Executive Order 14030 Climate-Related Financial Risk to strengthen the state of resilience nationwide. This follows the announcement of the new standard in the Fiscal Year 2021 Notices of Funding Opportunity for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) programs.

The interim policy is effective on Aug. 27. In addition to BRIC and FMA, it also applies to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for any major disaster declared on or after Aug. 27 and assistance authorized for all 59 COVID-19 disaster declarations. In addition, it applies to HMGP Post Fire for any Fire Mitigation Assistance Grant (FMAG) declarations issued on or after Aug. 27.

The interim policy partially implements the FFRMS by requiring higher flood elevations established by the Freeboard Value Approach for three types of actions—elevation, dry floodproofing, and mitigation reconstruction—in the Special Flood Hazard Area. The Freeboard Value Approach is the Base Flood Elevation plus two feet. Under the interim policy, FEMA does not require the partial implementation of the FFRMS Freeboard Value Approach if using it would cause the project to be unable to meet applicable program cost-effectiveness requirements.

FEMA anticipates this approach will ensure communities affected by future flood disasters are less vulnerable to the loss of life and property and reduce the effects of a changing environment. To learn more about the interim policy, please visit [FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov).

Contact Us

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA Office of External Affairs:

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- Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov
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