

FEMA Issues Updated Elevation Certificate

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued an update to the National Flood Insurance Program's Elevation Certificate, effective March 16, 2009. Significant changes in the new certificate include:

** A section to identify whether an enclosure, crawlspace or garage has "engineered" flood openings. Engineered openings are those that have been certified by a professional engineer to meet the opening requirements specified by ordinance.*

** Surveyors are now provided with a place to document Lowest Adjacent Grade for attached decks, stairs and structural supports, necessary for compliance and insurance rating purposes.*

** The height of flood openings can now be determined from interior or exterior grade for crawlspaces and attached garages.*

A one-year phase-in of the new Elevation Certificate has begun. Either the old (February 2006) certificate or the new certificate can be used until March 31, 2010. The new revised certificate will be required after April 1, 2010.

The new Elevation Certificate (FEMA Form 81-31, March 09) will remain in effect until March 31, 2012.

To view or download the new certificate, click here: