

FLOOD FACTS

A newsletter for agents of American Bankers Insurance Company of Florida / American Reliable Insurance Company.



ASSURANT
Specialty
Property

May 2006

Claims Information

American Bankers Insurance
Company of Florida
American Reliable Insurance
Company

Flood Claim Center
8655 E Via De Ventura
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

Phone

1-800-245-1505

Fax

1-800-224-4170

Hours of Operation:

Mon-Fri 5:30am-5:00pm PST

Claim status, please call:

1-800-245-1505

If you need help to submit a
claim via AccessFlood, call
the Flood Service Center at
1-800-423-4403.

Grow Your Flood Book!

Ahhhhhh, it's Spring! The birds are singing, the flowers are blooming and hurricane season is once again right around the corner. Take the time to review your homeowner policies to determine which risks are not covered by flood. A little investment of time, paper and postage could save you and your clients a lot of grief. Did you know that 25%-30% of all flood claims are paid for risks in B, C or X flood zones? These zones are in areas of moderate or minimal hazard and are zones for which a lender will typically not require the purchase of flood insurance. Order some Preferred Risk Policy brochures today and send them out to your unprotected clients. A supply order form is available on AccessFlood/Links/ARIC or American Bankers Info- there is a link to the pdf supply order form at the bottom of the page.

Are your Insured's questioning their Flood Zone???

There are more and more companies popping up stating they may be able to remove a property from the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) for a fee. Do you know that an insured can request their property be removed from the SFHA through a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) for free? A LOMA is a letter from FEMA stating that an existing structure or parcel of land that has not been elevated by fill (i.e. the existing structure or parcel of land is on natural grade) would not be inundated by the base flood shown of the current Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).

How would an insured know if their building would be eligible for a LOMA? A current elevation certificate will show the most recent Base Flood Elevation (BFE) and Lowest Adjacent Grade (LAG) for their building. If the LAG is at or above the BFE, then the insured maybe eligible for a LOMA and have the building removed from the SFHA. However, if the LAG of the property is below the BFE, this will prevent a LOMA from being issued to the property owner.

LOMA Applications

- **Zones A1-A30, AE, AO, AH and Unnumbered A:** MT-EZ form
http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/dl_mt-ez.shtm
- **Zones V1-V30 and VE:** http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/dl_mt-1.shtm

For additional assistance in completing these forms, there is a LOMA Tutorial available on FEMA's Flood Hazard Mapping website at:

http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/ot_lmatxt.shtm

Rates Changed May 1, 2006

Contact Information

**New Business Applications,
Rollovers,
Endorsements,
Cancellations,
Other Correspondence and
Overnight Mail**

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American Reliable Insurance
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8655 E Via De Ventura
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

Flood Service Center

Phone

1-800-423-4403

Fax

480-483-1675

480-607-0739

E-mail

flood.service.center@assurant.com

Hours of Operation

Mon-Fri 5:30am-4:30pm MST

Lockbox Address for Renewal Payments Only

American Bankers Insurance
Company of Florida
American Reliable Insurance
Company
PO Box 8437
Philadelphia, PA 19101

2006 Holiday Schedule – Flood Service Center

Our office will be closed on the
following days:

May 29- Memorial Day

July 4 – Independence Day

September 4 – Labor Day

November 23 – Thanksgiving

November 24 – Day after
Thanksgiving

December 25 – Christmas Day

Rates Changed May 1, 2006

The May 2006 changes to the Flood Manual can be accessed at <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/manual200605.shtm>. Also available at this site is a summary of the May 2006 changes, the complete Main Edition of the Flood Insurance Manual to include the May 2006 changes, the Producer's Edition, and instructions for ordering a hardcopy of the Flood Insurance Manual from the FEMA Flood Map Store.

New Elevation Certificate Available

FEMA's new Elevation Certificate (EC) was approved for use, effective February 13, 2006, through February 28, 2009. The new form has been revised and now requires the certifier to provide the square footage of the enclosed area below the elevated floor and at least two photographs of the building, if the EC is being used to obtain flood insurance.

The new EC will be phased in on a voluntary basis until December 31, 2006. An electronic version of the form and instructions is available on the FEMA website <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/elvinst.shtm>. Although the old version of the form is no longer available for distribution, existing copies may be used until the end of 2006. Elevations certified on or after January 1, 2007, must be submitted on the new form and must include photographs. <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/elvinst.shtm>

AccessFlood Web Training

The Flood Service Center is committed to providing the best training programs to our agents. Have you signed up to have an AccessFlood training class? It won't take more than 1.5 hours. The class is conducted via Web training. Call to schedule a training session and let us help you write more FLOOD business.

AccessFlood: This class is approximately 1 hour (no CE Credits available) and is conducted via Live Meeting. Live Meeting is a web training tool that allows you to actively participate during the training class. To schedule a class, or if you have any questions, please contact: Jayne Stotts at 800-423-4403 x346, by email: Jayne.Stotts@Assurant.com or Holly Lindberg at 800-423-4403 x364, by email: Hollyrae.Lindberg@Assurant.com

Continuing Education: The Fundamentals of Flood Insurance class is 4 hours (4 CE Credits) in most states. We also have an Advanced Flood Insurance class that is 4 hours (4 CE Credits). For more information on our CE Classes, please contact, Patty Latshaw @ 800-423-4403 x520 or by email: Patricia.Latshaw@Assurant.com.

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Increased Cost of Compliance Coverage

Increased Cost of Compliance, or ICC coverage is part of most Standard Flood Insurance Policies. If eligible, an insured can collect up to \$30,000 to help cover the cost of bringing their home or business into compliance with floodplain ordinances. More information can be found on the **WYO Company Bulletin W-05081** at <http://bsa.nfipstat.com>.