



DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY 54
April 16, 2020

New FEMA Flood Elevation Certificate

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Elevation Certificate (EC) is an administrative tool of the NFIP which is to be used to provide elevation information necessary to ensure compliance with the community floodplain management ordinances. It is used by insurance agents to determine the proper insurance premium rate or support a request for a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA).

On February 21, 2020, FEMA issued a new Elevation Certificate form numbered 086-0-33(12/19). The form date is December 2019 with an expiration date of November 30, 2022. It is the same form as the previous form, with no new or altered fields. Only the form date and expiration date have changed. **Per FEMA guidelines, a transition or “grace” period for new Elevation Certificate forms is no longer provided.**

Therefore, any Elevation Certificates signed and dated February 21, 2020 or later must be on the new form. FEMA may come out with new guidance on this, but as of right now, if an Elevation Certificate that is dated February 21, 2020 or later is submitted to meet flood zone requirements and it is not on the new form, it will be considered an error and must be resubmitted with the correct form.

Also be advised to pay particular attention to two areas on the form. Field “A4 Building Use” is now mandatory. During our review of the EC, we will be checking to make sure the space is filled in and filled in accurately. For example, if the building is clearly non-residential, but A4 is marked, “residential,” we would consider this an incomplete form. Additionally, if the field is left blank, it will also be considered an incomplete form.

A3. Property Description (Lot and Block Numbers, Tax Parcel Number, Legal Description, etc.)	
A4. Building Use (e.g., Residential, Non-Residential, Addition, Accessory, etc.)	
A5. Latitude/Longitude: Lat. <input type="text"/>	Long. <input type="text"/> Horizontal Datum: <input type="checkbox"/> NAD 1927 <input type="checkbox"/> NAD 1983

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Additionally, if engineered vents are used, please be sure to specify the openings in Square Inches and provide the support documentation as noted in the instructions for items A8.b-d as noted below:

Items A8.b–d. Enter in Item A8.b the number of permanent flood openings in the crawlspace or enclosure(s) that are no higher than 1.0 foot above the higher of the exterior or interior grade or floor immediately below the opening. (A permanent flood opening is a flood vent or other opening that allows the free passage of water automatically in both directions without human intervention.) If the interior grade elevation is used, note this in the Comments area of Section D. Estimate the total net area of all such permanent flood openings in square inches, excluding any bars, louvers, or other covers of the permanent flood openings, and enter the total in Item A8.c. If the net area cannot be reasonably estimated, provide the size of the flood openings without consideration of any covers and indicate in the Comments area the type of cover that exists in the flood openings. Indicate in Item A8.d whether the flood openings are engineered. If applicable, attach a copy of the Individual Engineered Flood Openings Certification or an Evaluation Report issued by the International Code Council Evaluation Service (ICC ES), if you have it. If the crawlspace or enclosure(s) have no permanent flood openings, or if the openings are not within 1.0 foot above adjacent grade, enter "N/A" for not applicable in Items A8.b–c.

The new EC form can be found at either of the following web sites:

FEMA web page: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/160>

The Development and Permits Department web page: <http://www.cityofchesapeake.net/government/city-departments/departments/Department-of-Development-and-Permits/forms.htm>

If you have any questions, please contact Pat Hughes, Plan Review and Codes Administrator at 382-6018 or phughes@cityofchesapeake.net