

# Changes to FEMA's Regulatory Flood Products

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## OVERVIEW:

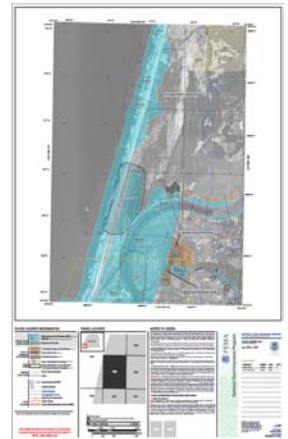
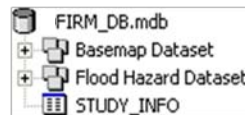
FEMA's regulatory flood products include the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report, and the FIRM Database. Updated standards are being required for these products starting in Fiscal Year 2012. FEMA's goals in updating the look and content of these products under Risk MAP are to:

1. Have the FIRM Database be the source of all other products;
2. Make the maps more user friendly;
3. More accurately place flood hazard data on the maps;
4. Reduce the costs of creating and maintaining the products; and
5. Better suit the database to software tools and the Internet.

## SPECIFIC FORMAT CHANGES:

### ***FIRM Database:***

- FEMA modified the database structure to store all elements needed to create FIRMs and FIS reports;
- Removed elements no longer needed due to FIRM format changes; and
- Made specific changes to better enable product creation and tool usage.



### ***Flood Insurance Study:***

- FEMA changed the cover, hyperlinked the table of contents, and used more tables instead of free text;
- Added a map index and some "Notes to Users" that were removed from the FIRM;
- Added sections on watershed specifics, Coastal Barrier Resource Systems, levees, and alluvial fan analysis; and
- Improved the coastal section.

### ***Flood Insurance Rate Maps:***

- FEMA reformatted the map to "D" size (24"x36") for easier plotting;
- Streamlined the notes and legend;
- Better emphasized flood zones and other important features through color and other design changes;
- Simplified some symbols and removed benchmarks;
- Simplified the legend with the full legend appearing in the FIS report; and
- Reconfigured the display of Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) for better accuracy and lower cost.