



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410-8000

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR HOUSING-FEDERAL HOUSING COMMISSIONER

December 8, 2010

MORTGAGEE LETTER 2010-41

TO: ALL FHA APPROVED MULTIFAMILY MORTGAGEES

SUBJECT: Construction Specifications Institute (CSI), *MasterFormat* Editions

Purpose

The construction specifications template for FHA new construction and substantial rehabilitation projects has changed. As the industry standards change the *MasterFormat* template will be updated to reflect industry standards and products. FHA will allow the use of all versions supported by CSI. The *MasterFormat* construction specifications template is used for the identification of construction materials and methods for the construction of FHA-insured multifamily projects.

The *CSI's MasterFormat* specifications template is required for all FHA multifamily insurance, Section 202 and Section 811 programs to describe construction materials and methods that will be used during the construction of the proposed project. Specifications already printed in the 16-Division *MasterFormat 1995* Edition may be submitted up to 30 days after the date of this Mortgagee Letter.

Background

CSI expanded the *MasterFormat* construction specifications template with significant updates to accommodate many new technologies and building practices to provide complete coverage for all types of construction projects. Most Division numbers of the new format correspond with the 16-Division *MasterFormat 1995*. Costs for these Divisions, such as Electrical, Plumbing, and Mechanical will be shown in the respective Division in the 16-Division format of HUD's Cost Estimating forms. CSI will make available to purchasers of *MasterFormat* a 1995 to 2010 transition matrix that identifies the correct new division to old division assignment.

Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access the contact person or number via TTY by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

If there are any questions regarding this Mortgagee Letter, please contact Joseph Sealey, Director, Technical Support division at (202) 402-2559.

/s/

David H. Stevens
Assistant Secretary for Housing – Federal
Housing Commissioner