



FHA INFO 2024-01

February 2, 2024

FHA Removes Mandatory Branch Registration Requirement

Today, the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) published a final rule in the Federal Register, Changes in Branch Office Registration Requirements [[Docket No. FR-6321-F-02](#)]. This regulation eliminates the current requirement for mortgagees and lenders to register the branch offices where they conduct FHA Title I or Title II loan originations. This final rule takes into consideration comments received in response to the proposed rule that was published on March 1, 2023.

As the mortgage industry has evolved to better leverage technology and remote service delivery, FHA believes that requiring a mortgagee or lender to register all branches is an unnecessary administrative and cost impediment to program participation. By removing these barriers, FHA hopes to incentivize additional community-based mortgage loan originators, credit unions, and others to offer FHA-insured loan products in branch offices that they did not previously register due to business volume considerations, thus expanding the availability of FHA programs to underserved communities.

This final rule:

- Revises [24 CFR 202.5\(k\)](#) to give mortgagees and lenders the option to register all branch offices; and
- Makes fees applicable only to branch offices that mortgagees or lenders register with FHA, rather than applying fees to each branch authorized to originate Title II mortgages or Title I loans. Branch offices not registered with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are not subject to branch registration fees and will be excluded from the [HUD Lender List Search](#) page.

Removing the requirement to register branch offices will not affect HUD's monitoring of lenders and mortgagees. HUD will continue to maintain oversight and risk management of lenders and mortgagees that remain responsible to FHA for the actions of its branch offices and employees.

The provisions in this final rule become effective on March 4, 2024.

FHA will soon publish a Mortgagee Letter (ML) that provides implementation guidance for the provisions in the final rule.

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- Visit our knowledge base to obtain answers to frequently asked questions 24/7 at www.hud.gov/answers.
- E-mail answers@hud.gov. Emails and phone messages will be responded to during normal hours of operation, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM (Eastern), Monday through Friday on all non-Federal holidays.
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