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FHA Updates Origination Defect Taxonomy to Include Fraud or Misrepresentation Involving Sponsored Third-Party Originators

Today, the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) published Mortgagee Letter (ML) 2024-14, Fraud or Misrepresentation Involving Sponsored Third-Party Originators.

This ML updates FHA's Defect Taxonomy to include fraud or material misrepresentation involving a Third-Party Originator (TPO) as a Tier 1 severity defect. Mortgagees are responsible for the actions of their sponsored TPOs under 24 CFR § 202.8(a)(3) and Handbook 4000.1 Section I.A.5.a.v. FHA is implementing these changes to better align the Defect Taxonomy with these existing requirements and mitigate risk to the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund (MMI Fund).

FHA's Defect Taxonomy is its quality assurance framework for all Title II loan reviews. It provides a consistent methodology for identifying defects at the loan level, useful data, feedback through structured categorization of defects, and balance between FHA's risk management and quality assurance business processes.

The provisions of this ML apply to all FHA Title II Single Family mortgage programs and are effective immediately.

This policy update will be incorporated into a future version of FHA's <u>Single Family Housing</u> Policy Handbook 4000.1

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