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TILA Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans Appraisal Rule

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE



Consumer Financial
Protection Bureau

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1. Introduction

The Truth in Lending Act (TILA) of 1968 and its implementing rules under Regulation Z seek to promote the informed use of consumer credit by requiring disclosures about its costs and terms. In 2010, TILA was amended by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the Dodd-Frank Act) to require rules for appraisals on principal residences securing higher-priced loans.

To implement these TILA amendments, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), in partnership with five other federal regulatory agencies, is adopting a new rule, the Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans (HPML) Appraisal Rule. The rule is part of Regulation Z.

Mortgage loans are HPMLs if they are secured by a consumer's principal dwelling and have interest rates above certain thresholds, as outlined in Section 2 of this guide.

When you originate a higher-priced first-lien or subordinate-lien loan covered by the HPML Appraisal Rule, you must:

- Use a licensed or certified appraiser who certifies the appraisal complies with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) and the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act (FIRREA) of 1989, as amended, 12 U.S.C. 3331 *et seq.*, and any implementing regulations
- Have the appraiser physically visit the property and view the interior and produce a written appraisal report
- Obtain an additional appraisal at your own expense if the property's seller acquired the dwelling within the past 180 days and is reselling it for a price that exceeds certain thresholds, which are detailed in Section 2 of this guide
- Provide a disclosure within three business days of application explaining the consumer's rights with regard to appraisals
- Give consumers free copies of the appraisal reports performed in connection with the loan at least three days before consummation of the transaction

When you originate first-lien mortgages covered by the HPML Appraisal Rule, you must also consider the requirements of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA), which are outlined in the Bureau's *ECOA Valuations Rule Small Entity Compliance Guide*. This guide contains more information about the overlap between the two rules. The ECOA guide and the ECOA Valuations Rule are online at <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/regulations/disclosure-and-delivery-requirements-for-copies-of-appraisals-and-other-written-valuations-under-the-equal-credit-opportunity-act-regulation-b/>.

The Bureau has generally estimated that, based upon market practices as of 2011, the vast majority of HPMLs will be Qualified Mortgages. If you do originate HPMLs that are not Qualified Mortgages, then your cost and the effort required to implement this rule will be based on the mix of those loans you originate. There will be costs associated with obtaining an additional appraisal when you originate an HPML to which that requirement applies, as well as costs for reviewing and implementing the regulation.

There are several exemptions from the rule, as well as from the rule's requirement to obtain an additional appraisal for purchases of flipped properties that exceed specified price thresholds. These exemptions are detailed in Section 5 of this guide.

Among other exemptions, HPMLs that meet the Qualified Mortgage standards in section 1026.43(e) of Regulation Z are exempted from the HPML Appraisal Rule. Therefore, you need to comply with the HPML Appraisal Rule only if you originate HPMLs that are not Qualified Mortgages.

For more information on Qualified Mortgages, consult the Bureau's *Ability-to-Repay/Qualified Mortgage Rule Small Entity Compliance Guide* online at http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201304_cfpb_compliance-guide_atr-qm-rule.pdf.

I. What is the purpose of this guide?

The purpose of this guide is to provide a summary of the new HPML Appraisal Rule. This guide also highlights issues that small creditors, and those that work with them, might find helpful to consider when implementing the rule.

The Bureau hopes this guide will provide greater clarity on the issues covered by the rule and lessen your compliance burden by reducing costs for attorneys and compliance officers, as well as potential costs of over-compliance and unnecessary litigation.

The focus of this guide is the HPML Appraisal Rule. Except for limited discussion of the related ECOA Valuations Rule and the Ability-to-Repay Rule noted above, this guide does not discuss other federal or state laws that may apply to appraisals you prepare as you originate loans secured by principal dwellings.

The guide summarizes the HPML Appraisal Rule, but it is not a substitute for the rule. Only the rule and its Official Interpretations can provide definitive information regarding its requirements. The discussions below provide citations to the sections of the rule that pertain to the subject being discussed. Keep in mind that the Official Interpretations, which provide detailed explanations of many of the rule's requirements, are found after the text of the rule and its appendices. The interpretations are arranged by rule section and paragraph for ease of use. The complete rule, including the Official Interpretations, is available at <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/regulations/appraisals-for-higher-priced-mortgage-loans/>.

At the end of this guide, there is more information about how to read the rule and a list of additional resources.

II. Who should read this guide?

If your organization originates HPMLs – whether they are secured by first or subordinate liens on principal dwellings – you may find this guide helpful, particularly if any of these HPMLs are not Qualified Mortgages.

This guide will help you determine whether this rule covers any of the loans you originate and if so, what your compliance obligations are.

This guide may also be helpful to secondary market participants, appraisal management companies, software providers, and other companies that serve as business partners to creditors.

III. Who can I contact about this guide or the HPML Appraisal Rule?

For more information on the rule, please contact the Bureau's Office of Regulations at 202-435-7700, or email questions to CFPB_reinquiries@cfpb.gov.

Email comments about the guide to CFPB_TitleXIVRules@cfpb.gov. Your feedback is crucial to making sure the guide is as helpful as possible. The Bureau welcomes your suggestions for improvements and your thoughts on its usefulness and readability.

The Bureau is particularly interested in feedback relating to:

- How useful you found this guide for understanding the rule
- How useful you found this guide for implementing the rule at your business

- Suggestions you have for improving the guide, such as additional implementation tips

2. Overview of the HPML Appraisal Rule

I. When do I have to start following the HPML Appraisal Rule?

You must follow the HPML Appraisal Rule's provisions for applications received on or after January 18, 2014. For example, an application received on January 17, 2014, for a loan not scheduled to close until February 2014, would not be covered by the HPML Appraisal Rule.

II. What loans does the HPML Appraisal Rule cover? (§ 1026.35(a)(1))

The HPML Appraisal Rule applies to higher-priced, first-lien or subordinate-lien closed-end loans secured by a consumer's principal dwelling, which are not otherwise exempt under the rule.

A loan is “**higher-priced**” if:

- It is a first-lien mortgage (other than a jumbo loan) with an annual percentage rate (APR) that exceeds the **Average Prime Offer Rate (APOR)** published by the Bureau at the time the APR is set by 1.5 percentage points or more.

 **Implementation Tip:** You already must compare APRs and APOR under existing Regulation Z including to determine whether the transaction is an HPML that is subject to the escrow requirements. The process you use for that comparison will suffice for this regulation as well.

- It is a first-lien jumbo loan with an APR that exceeds the APOR at the time the APR is set by 2.5 percentage points or more. A loan is a jumbo loan when the principal balance exceeds the limit in effect as of the date the transaction's rate is set for the maximum principal obligation eligible for purchase by Freddie Mac. (Comment 35(a)(1)-3)
- It is a subordinate-lien with an APR that exceeds the APOR at the time the APR is set by 3.5 percentage points or more.

For example, if the APOR is 5 percent, a first-lien non-jumbo mortgage is higher-priced if it has an APR of 6.5 percent or more.

You will find an online APOR rate spread calculator, which automatically imports the applicable APOR to compare with APR, at <http://www.ffiec.gov/ratespread/newcalc.aspx>.

III. What HPML loans are not covered by the HPML Appraisal Rule? (§ 1026.35(c)(2))

The rule exempts these loans from all of its requirements:

- Qualified Mortgages, as defined in Regulation Z § 1026.43(e). For more information on Qualified Mortgages, consult the Bureau's *Ability-to-Repay/Qualified Mortgage Rule Small Entity Compliance Guide* online at <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/regulations/ability-to-repay-and-qualified-mortgage-standards-under-the-truth-in-lending-act-regulation-z/>.
- Reverse mortgages
- Bridge loans (for 12 months or less and intended to be used to acquire a new principal dwelling)
- Loans for initial construction of a dwelling (not limited to loans of 12 months or less)
- Loans secured by new manufactured homes
- Loans secured by boats, trailers, and mobile homes

3. About the HPML Appraisal Rule

I. What must I do to comply with the HPML Appraisal Rule?

When you originate a covered HPML (*See list of exemptions on page 10*), you must:

- Disclose to consumers within three business days after receiving the consumers' applications that they are entitled to a free copy of any appraisal the creditor orders and also can hire their own appraiser at their own expense for their own use. (§ 1026.35(c)(5))

- Obtain a written appraisal performed by certified or licensed appraiser in conformity with the USPAP and Title XI of FIRREA and its implementing regulations. (§§ 1026.35(c)(1)(i) and 35(c)(3)(i))

- Have the appraiser visit the interior of the property and provide a written report (§ 1026.35(c)(3))

- Deliver copies of appraisals to applicants no later than three business days before consummation (§ 1026.35(c)(6)(ii))

Implementation Tip: To be sure the appraisal complies with USPAP and FIRREA and meets the interior-inspection requirement, you can take the list of steps described in the “safe harbor” in appendix N to Regulation Z. (*See “What do I have to do for the required appraisals to qualify for the safe harbor?” on page 12.*)

Additional requirements apply in certain cases when a home is being resold within 180 days of its acquisition by the seller above certain price thresholds. (*See “What is a flip?” on page 18.*)

II. What do I have to do for the required appraisals to qualify for the safe harbor? (§ 1026.35(c)(3)(ii) and appendix N to Regulation Z)

In appendix N to Regulation Z, the HPML Appraisal Rule provides a list of steps you can take to be sure that any required appraisal meets the requirements of the rule. When you take each of the steps in this list for an appraisal, you will be eligible for the “safe harbor” protection for that appraisal. That is, by taking these steps, you will comply with the rule.

You can gain safe harbor protection for an appraisal by following four steps:

First, when ordering the appraisal:

- Order an appraisal from a certified or licensed appraiser in the state where the property is located and require the appraiser to follow USPAP and Title XI of FIRREA and any implementing regulations in effect at the time the appraiser signs the appraiser’s certification.

Second, you must confirm that the appraisal:

- Identifies the creditor who ordered the appraisal, the property, and the interest being appraised
- Indicates whether the appraiser analyzed the contract price
- Addresses conditions in the property’s neighborhood
- Addresses the condition of the property and any improvements to the property
- Indicates which valuation approaches the appraiser used and includes a reconciliation if the appraiser used more than one valuation approach
- Provides an opinion of the property’s market value and an effective date for the opinion
- Indicates that the appraiser performed a physical property visit of the interior of the property
- Includes a certification signed by the appraiser that the appraisal was prepared in accordance with the requirements of USPAP and Title XI of FIRREA and any implementing regulations

Third, check the status of the appraiser:

- Use the National Registry to verify that the appraiser is certified or licensed in the state where the property is located on the date he signed the appraiser's certification.

Fourth, keep in mind that the safe harbor applies only if:

- You do not have actual knowledge contrary to the facts or certifications contained in the written appraisal. (§ 1026.35(c)(3)(ii))

You may outsource your appraisal review to a third party, but you will remain responsible for complying with the rule. If you rely on the third party, if the third party does not follow the rule, then you will be responsible for the violation. Using an automated review process can also be appropriate, but you will still remain responsible for the effectiveness of those processes.

 **Implementation Tip:** You can send the copy of the appraisal disclosure electronically if the consumer gives consent as required by the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (E-Sign Act).

III. How do the Appraisals for Higher-Price Mortgage Loans Rule and the Equal Opportunity Credit Act Valuations Rule overlap?

For first-lien HPMLs that are covered by the HPML Appraisal Rule, the disclosure requirements overlap with the ECOA Valuations Rule. The ECOA Valuations Rule implements Dodd-Frank Act amendments to ECOA, which require you to provide consumer disclosures and free copies of appraisals and other written valuations.

You can use the disclosure under the ECOA Valuations Rule to satisfy the requirements of this rule. The ECOA guide and the ECOA Valuations Rule are online at <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/regulations/disclosure-and-delivery-requirements-for-copies-of-appraisals-and-other-written-valuations-under-the-equal-credit-opportunity-act-regulation-b/>.

The ECOA Valuations Rule imposes a different deadline structure for providing copies of appraisals to consumers. Under the ECOA Valuations Rule, the copies of appraisals must be provided “promptly upon completion” or three business days before closing, whichever is earlier.

As a result, if the appraisal is completed early in the application process, then the “promptly upon completion” deadline will come first, since it will be earlier than the three-business-days-before-closing deadline under this rule.

In addition, the applicant can waive the deadline under the ECOA Valuations Rule and elect to receive the copies at closing, whereas the applicant cannot waive the three-business-days-before-closing deadline under the HPML Appraisal Rule.

If the transaction is subject to both rules, then comply with the earlier deadline. The HPML Appraisal Rule deadline will be earlier if the applicant provides a waiver under the ECOA Valuations Rule.

For example, if an applicant waives the deadline under the ECOA Valuations Rule, you will still need to comply with the three-business-day-before-closing requirement in this rule.

If the applicant does not waive the three-business-days-before-closing deadline, generally the ECOA Valuations Rule “promptly upon completion” deadline will be earlier.

IV. What text do I use in my disclosure to consumers?

Use this text in your disclosure to consumers:

“We may order an appraisal to determine the property’s value and charge you for this appraisal. We will give you a copy of any appraisal, even if your loan does not close. You can pay for an additional appraisal for your own use at your own cost.”

For a first-lien transaction, you can also add the word “promptly” to the disclosure, telling the consumers you will “promptly” give them the copy. Then you will have the same disclosure used to comply with the ECOA Valuation Rule. (Regulation B, 12 CFR 1002.14(a)(2))

V. Do I need to provide the disclosure as part of the initial loan estimate?

Yes. Currently, the Good Faith Estimate (GFE) provided under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA) does not include a space for the appraisal disclosure, and you will need to provide the HPML appraisal disclosure separately for loans covered by the HPML Appraisal Rule.

In 2012, the Bureau proposed a rule to integrate certain disclosures under TILA and under RESPA (the 2012 TILA-RESPA Proposal). A “Loan Estimate” was one of the proposed integrated disclosures, combining the GFE currently provided under RESPA with initial TILA disclosures.

In conjunction with the 2012 TILA-RESPA Proposal, available at <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/knowbeforeyouowe/>, the Bureau proposed including appraisal-related disclosures in the loan estimate to satisfy the requirements of both Regulations Z and B (TILA § 129H and ECOA § 701(e)).

For closed-end credit, once the agencies publish the final TILA-RESPA rule, check to confirm that the loan estimate includes the disclosure required by the HPML Appraisal Rule. Until then, you have to use a separate disclosure to comply with the HPML Appraisal Rule.

VI. How can I deliver the appraisal copies to applicants? (Comment 35(c)(6)(ii)-1)

Send the copies to the applicant’s last-known physical or electronic address. Delivery occurs three business days after you mail or transmit the copies, or whenever you have evidence indicating the applicant received the copies.

For electronic delivery, you must obtain consent from the applicant under the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (E-Sign Act). You will find information about E-Sign online at <http://www.fdic.gov/regulations/compliance/manual/pdf/X-3.1.pdf>.

VII. What counts as a “business day” for the timing of the required disclosure and appraisal copies?

Under Regulation Z, for purposes of the deadlines for delivering the initial disclosure on appraisals and also for delivering a copy of the appraisal, a “business day” is defined as when “the creditor’s offices are open to the public for carrying on substantially all of its business functions.”

VIII. Can I charge for the appraisal copies? (Comment 35(c)(6)(iv)-1)

You cannot charge fees for photocopying or to cover the cost of postage to provide copies of appraisals, nor can you raise the consumer's interest rate or mark up other fees to cover this cost.

IX. What if there is more than one applicant? Do I have to send the disclosure and appraisal copies to each of them? (Comments 35(c)(5)(i)-1, 35(c)(6)(i)-1)

If there is more than one applicant, you are required to give a copy of the disclosure and appraisal copies to only one of the applicants.

For further guidance, see the Bureau's ECOA Valuations Rule or the Bureau's *ECOA Valuations Rule Small Entity Compliance Guide* available online at

<http://www.consumerfinance.gov/regulations/disclosure-and-delivery-requirements-for-copies-of-appraisals-and-other-written-valuations-under-the-equal-credit-opportunity-act-regulation-b/>.

 **Implementation Tip:** If your HPML is secured by a first lien, then the ECOA Valuations Rule will require that you send copies to the primary applicant when one is readily apparent.

X. What are my obligations if the loan does not close? (§ 1026.35(c)(6)(ii)(B))

If you determine that you are not going to close a loan, you still have to give the applicant appraisal copies within 30 days after you determine the transaction is not going to close. In addition, if the transaction is subject to the ECOA Valuations Rule, an earlier deadline of providing the copies “promptly upon completion” applies (unless the applicant has waived that deadline under the ECOA Valuations Rule).

For further guidance on ECOA Valuations, see the Bureau's ECOA Valuations Rule or the Bureau's *ECOA Valuations Rule Small Entity Compliance Guide* available online at <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/regulations/disclosure-and-delivery-requirements-for-copies-of-appraisals-and-other-written-valuations-under-the-equal-credit-opportunity-act-regulation-b/>.

4. How are “flips” defined and documented?

I. What is a “flip”? (15 U.S.C. § 1639h(b)(2); § 1026.35(c)(4)(i))

Additional requirements apply in certain cases when a covered HPML is being used to purchase a home that is being resold within 90-180 days of its acquisition by the seller. These types of transactions may be commonly described as “flips.”

If the consumer is using a covered HPML to buy a flipped property, unless exemptions apply (see *“What are the exemptions from the requirement to obtain an additional appraisal for certain flipped homes?”* on page 24) an additional appraisal is required if the price reflected in the consumer’s purchase agreement is more than a certain amount higher than the seller’s acquisition price. These amounts are:

- More than a 10 percent price increase if the seller acquired the property in the past 90 days
- More than a 20 percent price increase if the seller acquired the property in the past 91 to 180 days

To determine the seller’s acquisition price, use written source documents. (See *“What documents can I use to determine the seller acquired the property in the past 180 days?”* on page 21)

II. What do I have to do if the property is a “flip” purchased with a covered HPML? (§ 1026.35(c)(4)(ii)-(iv))

When a consumer uses a covered HPML to purchase a flipped property, additional requirements apply in some cases. If the price increase exceeds specified amounts, you must obtain an additional appraisal from a different certified or licensed appraiser unless an exemption applies. *(See “What are the exemptions from the requirement to obtain an additional appraisal for certain flipped homes?” on page 24.)*

You cannot charge the consumer for the additional appraisal.

The additional appraisal must meet the same requirements as the first (written report by a certified or licensed appraiser in compliance with USPAP and FIRREA based upon an interior property visit) and also must analyze:

- The difference in the original sales price and the subsequent sales price
- Changes in market conditions
- Property improvements the seller made

You cannot use the appraisal from the seller’s acquisition or finance of the property to satisfy the requirement for an additional appraisal.

In purchase transactions financed by a covered HPML, you may find it useful to set up a process for determining whether an additional appraisal would be required based upon the availability of exemptions or prior sales or acquisitions involving the property that would secure the loan.

The Bureau estimates that very few covered HPMLs will be used to purchase flips that have the necessary price increases and are not exempt from the requirement to obtain an additional appraisal. If you can determine the requirement to obtain an additional appraisal does not apply based upon only one piece of information, that will save you time.

For example, the requirement to obtain an additional appraisal does not apply if *any* of the following is true:

- An exemption applies. *(See “What are the complete exemptions from the HPML Appraisal Rule for certain transactions?” on page 23 and “What are the exemptions from the requirement to obtain an additional appraisal for certain flipped homes?” on page 24 for more information on exemptions.)*

- The seller's acquisition date is more than 180 days earlier.
- The price increase is below the applicable threshold.

III. How do I calculate the 180-day period for prior sales? (Comment 35(c)(4)(i)-2)

The **acquisition date** is the day the seller became the legal owner of the property (based on state law).

The **purchase date** is the day the consumer and the seller signed a home purchase agreement.

If the seller and the consumer signed the purchase agreement on two different days, use the latter of the two dates. (Comment 35(c)(4)(i)-4)

Start with the day after the acquisition date and count up to and including the purchase date.

Suppose, for example:

- A seller acquires the property on April 17, 2012.
- Your consumer agrees to buy the property on October 15, 2012.

The first day you would count in the 180-day calculation would be April 18, 2012, and the last day would be October 15, 2012. In this case, the number of days from April 17 would be 181, so you would not have to order an additional appraisal.

You do not have to determine whether and to what extent the purchase agreement is legally binding on both parties. (Comment 35(c)(4)(i)-4)

IV. How do I determine the price at which the seller acquired the property and the consumer will pay to acquire it? (Comments 35(c)(4)-5 and 6)

Use the amount the seller paid. Do not include the cost of financing the property. If the seller paid nothing for the property, and received it as a gift, then treat the acquisition price as zero.

The price the consumer is obligated to pay to acquire the property is the price that appears in the consumer's agreement with the seller. Do not include the cost of financing the property.

V. What documents can I use to determine if the seller acquired the property in the past 180 days? (Appendix O to Regulation Z)

You can use written documents to establish that you acted with reasonable diligence in determining if the seller acquired the property in the previous 180 days. For example, you can show you acted with reasonable diligence if you rely on one or more of these 10 documents (this list does not include all documents you might use):

1. A copy of the recorded deed from the seller
2. A copy of a property tax bill
3. A copy of an owner's title insurance policy purchase by the seller
4. A copy of the RESPA settlement statement from the seller's closing (*i.e.*, the HUD-1 or any successor form)
5. A property sales history report or title report from a third-party reporting service
6. Sales price data recorded in multiple listing services

7. Tax assessment records or transfer tax records obtained from local governments
8. A written appraisal performed in compliance with the USPAP and FIRREA requirements for the same transaction
9. A copy of a title commitment report detailing the seller's ownership of the property, the date it was acquired, or the price at which the seller acquired the property
10. A property abstract

If, after exercising reasonable diligence, you cannot tell if the property was subject to a prior acquisition in the last 180 days, and you cannot tell whether the price difference falls below the applicable threshold described above, and no exemption applies, then you must obtain an additional appraisal. (See comment 35(c)(4)(vi)(A)-3 and associated examples for more information on this.)

VI. Can the additional appraisal be done by an appraiser from the same firm that did the first appraisal?

The HPML Appraisal Rule requires that the two appraisals be conducted by appraisers who are independent of each other. If the two certified or licensed appraisers are affiliated – for example, they work for the same appraisal firm – then whether they have conducted the appraisal independently of each other must be determined based on the facts and circumstances of the particular case known to the creditor. For more information, see the appraisal independence regulations applicable to your institution. (§ 1026.43)

5. What are the exemptions from the HPML Appraisal Rule?

I. What exemptions apply under the HPML Appraisal Rule? (§ 1026.35(c)(2))

The requirements of the HPML Appraisal Rule do not apply to the following types of transactions:

- Qualified Mortgages, as defined in Regulation Z § 1026.43(e). For more information on Qualified Mortgages, consult the Bureau's *Ability-to-Repay/Qualified Mortgage Rule Small Entity Compliance Guide* online at http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201304_cfpb_compliance-guide_atr-qm-rule.pdf.
- Reverse mortgages
- Bridge loans (for 12 months or less)
- Loans for initial construction of a dwelling (not limited to loans of 12 months or less)
- Loans secured by new manufactured homes
- Loans secured by boats, trailers, and mobile homes

II. What are the exemptions from the requirement to obtain an additional appraisal for certain flipped homes? (§ 1026.35(c)(4)(vii))

There also are exemptions from the requirement to obtain an additional appraisal for covered HPMLs used to purchase flipped homes at prices above the thresholds. There are eight types of transactions that are exempt from this requirement.

You do not have to order an additional appraisal for a covered HPML used to acquire the property from:

- A local, state, or federal government agency
- A person who acquired title from the holder of a defaulted mortgage on the property via foreclosure, deed-in-lieu of foreclosure, or other similar judicial or nonjudicial procedure through exercise of the holder's rights in the defaulted loan
- A nonprofit entity as part of a local, state, or federal government program that lets nonprofits acquire title to single-family properties for resale from a seller who itself acquired title to the property through foreclosure, deed-in-lieu of foreclosure, or other similar judicial or nonjudicial procedure
- A person who inherited the property or acquired it through a court-ordered dissolution of marriage, civil union, or domestic partnership, or through the partition of the seller's joint or marital assets
- An employer or relocation agency in connection with an employee relocation
- A service member, as defined in 50 U.S.C. appendix 511(1), who received a deployment or permanent change of station order after purchasing the property

You also do not have to order an additional appraisal for a covered HPML used to acquire a property:

- Located in a presidentially-declared **disaster area** during any time period during which the federal financial institutions regulatory agencies, as defined in 12 U.S.C. 3350(6), waive the requirements in Title XI of FIRREA and any implementing regulations in that area

- Located in a rural county (12 CFR 1026.35(c)(4)(vii)(H) and (b)(2)(iv)(A)), which are those counties located in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service Urban Influence Codes 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12. The Bureau has published a preliminary list of these counties at <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/blog/exemption-from-escrow-requirement-for-small-creditors-in-rural-or-underserved-counties>.

6. Practical implementation and compliance considerations

You may want to consult with legal counsel or your compliance officer to understand your obligations under the rule and to devise the policies and procedures that may help you comply with the rule's requirements.

How you comply with the rule may depend on your business model. When mapping out your compliance plan, you should consider practical implementation issues in addition to understanding your obligations under the rule.

Your implementation and compliance plan may include:

1. Identifying affected products, departments, and staff

To begin planning for implementation of the rule, you may need to identify all affected mortgage products, departments, and staff. This will include consumer closed-end mortgages for principal dwellings whether secured by a first lien or subordinate lien.

2. Identifying the business process, operational, and technology changes that will be necessary for compliance

The new requirements may affect a number of parts of your business systems and processes. For example, you will need to update your origination forms and processes to give applicants the new disclosure. You will also need to be sure you have established methods to ensure that consumers receive the required appraisal copies in accordance with relevant deadlines in this rule (and the ECOA Valuations Rule, if applicable) as well as to confirm that applicants receive timely appraisal copies even when loans do not close.

Fully understanding the required changes may involve a review of your existing business processes and recordkeeping regimes, as well as the hardware and software that you, your agents, or other business partners use. Gap analyses may be a helpful output of such a review and help to inform a robust implementation plan.

3. Identifying key service providers or business partners for appraisals and other written valuations if you use outside assistance for disclosures, compliance, quality control, or records storage

Appraisal providers, vendors, and business partners may offer compliance solutions that can assist you with any necessary changes. You may find it helpful to talk to your appraisal management firm and technology vendors. In some cases, you may want to negotiate revised or new contracts with these parties, or seek a different set of services.

If you seek the assistance of vendors or business partners, make sure you understand the extent of the assistance that they provide.

4. Identifying training needs

Consider what training will be necessary for your origination, processing, compliance, and quality-control staff as well as anyone else involved in originating mortgage loans. Training may also be required for other individuals you employ.

5. Considering other Title XIV rules

The HPML Appraisal Rule is just one component of the Bureau's Dodd-Frank Title XIV rulemakings.

Other Title XIV rules include:

- Ability-to-Repay and Qualified Mortgage Rule
- 2013 HOEPA Rule
- ECOA Valuations Rule
- Loan Originator Rule
- Mortgage Servicing Rules
- TILA Escrow Rule

Each of these rules affects aspects of the mortgage industry and its regulation. Many of these rules intersect with one or more of the others. Therefore, the compliance considerations for these rules may overlap in your organization. You will find full copies of the regulations on the Bureau's website at <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/regulations/>.

7. Other resources

I. Where can I find a copy of the HPML Appraisal Rule and get more information about it?

You will find the rule on the Bureau's website at

<http://www.consumerfinance.gov/regulations/appraisals-for-higher-priced-mortgage-loans/>.

In addition to a complete copy of the rule, that web page also contains:

- The preamble, which explains why the Bureau issued the rule; the legal authority and reasoning behind the rule; responses to comments; and analysis of the benefits, costs, and impacts of the rule
- Official Interpretations of the rule
- A summary of the rule

For email updates about Bureau regulations and when additional implementation resources become available, please submit your email address within the "Email updates" box at

<http://www.consumerfinance.gov/regulations/>.