#### **Housing News Update**



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## Freddie Mac Expands LTV Ratios for Super Conforming Mortgages

Freddie Mac is announcing changes to its Single-Family Seller/Servicer Guide which the company says will provide **expanded homeownership opportunities** which the company says will provide expanded homeownership opportunities for some borrowers, especially those in designated high-cost areas. The changes, it says, will also streamline the underwriting process.

The principal change, effective for mortgages with settlement dates on or after March 28, will **revise loan-to-value requirements** (LTV), total LTV (TLTV) and Home Equity Lines of Credit LTV (HLTV) ratios for super conforming mortgages and 1-unit investment property mortgages.

The three LTV measures above will be **expanded** for super conforming mortgages to align with those ratios subject to base conforming loan limits. The required minimum Indicator Scores for Manually Underwritten super conforming mortgages will also be aligned with those subject to base loan limits.

SUPER CONFORMING MORTGAGES Effective for Settlement Dates on or after March 28, 2016								
	Purpose	LTV/TLTV Ratios						
Product		All Eligible						
		≤ 75%	> 75% & ≤ 80%	> 80% & ≤ 85%	> 85% & ≤ 90%	> 90%		
30-, 20- and 15-year Fixed Rate Fully Amortizing	Purchase & No Cash-out Refinance	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	<mark>0.25%</mark>		
	Cash-out Refinance	1.00%	1.00%	Not Eligible				
Fully Amortizing ARMs (All Eligible)	Purchase & No Cash-out Refinance	1.00%	1.75%	1.75%	1.75%	2.00%		
	Cash-out Refinance	1.75%	2.50%	Not Eligible				

For mortgages secured by **1-unit investment properties** the eligible LTV ratios will be aligned for purchase mortgages and no-cash-out refinances. The company said these expanded ratios will provide borrowers with greater ability to refinance into improved rate and term mortgages without the need to establish additional equity.

#### National Average Mortgage Rates



	Rate	Change	Points				
Mortgage News Daily							
30 Yr. Fixed	6.89%	0.00	0.00				
15 Yr. Fixed	6.33%	+0.01	0.00				
30 Yr. FHA	6.33%	+0.01	0.00				
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.05%	0.00	0.00				
5/1 ARM	6.58%	0.00	0.00				
Freddie Mac							
30 Yr. Fixed	6.77%	-0.09	0.00				
15 Yr. Fixed	6.05%	-0.11	0.00				
Mortgage Bankers Assoc.							
30 Yr. Fixed	7.00%	-0.03	0.60				
15 Yr. Fixed	6.63%	+0.07	0.61				
30 Yr. FHA	6.87%	-0.03	0.92				
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.13%	+0.02	0.38				
5/1 ARM Rates as of: 7/22	6.22%	-0.16	0.60				

#### **Recent Housing Data**

		Value	Change
Mortgage Apps	Jul 10	206.1	-0.19%
Building Permits	Mar	1.46M	-3.95%
Housing Starts	Mar	1.32M	-13.15%
New Home Sales	Mar	693K	+4.68%
Pending Home Sales	Feb	75.6	+1.75%
Existing Home Sales	Feb	3.97M	-0.75%

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lue Change

A second change to the Guide affects master or **blanket insurance policies** on condening projects and planned unit 51 +6.25% developments (PUD). The revision will prohibit the sale of mortgages on such properties with an insurance policy that combines coverages for multiple unaffiliated projects or PUDs. The change also alters terms of required insurance coverage for employee dishonesty.

Bulletin 2016-3 containing full information on these changes can be read here.

### **Update: Buyer Broker Agreement**

After requests from real estate companies, a nonprofit consumer watchdog group the Consumer Federation of America has developed a list of factors to consider when creating a buyer contract in preparation for upcoming practice changes in the industry.

CFA released its "Proposed Criteria for Evaluating Home Buyer Contract Forms" on Tuesday. The 15 criteria focus on the contracts' form — whether the documents are readable and understandable — and content — whether they are fair to homebuyers.

- -the document's expiration date (CFA recommends buyers asks for a three-month contract and never sign one longer than six months)
- -the right to terminate the contract
- -the disclosure that compensation is negotiable
- -the broker's compensation clearly stated and that the buyer broker can't receive additional compensation for facilitating a sale
- -that any additional fees, such as for showing a home, will be deducted from the broker's commission if there is a successful sale
- -that the commission is due only if there is a successful closing
- -that buyers have an obligation for no longer than 60 days, CFA recommends to pay a broker who earlier showed them a home they purchased after the contract ended
- -seller concessions paid directly to buyers
- -dual agency not pre-approved by the contract
- -an explanation of how a broker treats different buyer clients interested in the same property
- -that buyers should not be required to first go through mediation or arbitration if they have a complaint

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