Fannie Mae Will Introduce Revised MBS Pool Number Field Format

Currently Fannie Mae MBS pool numbers are six numeric characters (e.g., “123456” or “903456”). MBS pools are further identified by a two character prefix appended to the pool number (e.g. “CL-123456” or “CL-903456”). Fannie Mae is now issuing MBS pool numbers in the 900000 series. Assuming a consumption rate of approximately 50,000 pool numbers per year, the company anticipates depleting the available six-digit numeric pool numbers in the first quarter of 2008.

To minimize the impact to our customers and the market, however, Fannie Mae will not change the length of the pool number from six numeric characters. Rather, the company will move to a six character alpha-numeric numbering system when the 900000 series is exhausted.

This edition of MBSenger provides detail about the event to help market participants anticipate any systems modifications or other adjustments needed to accommodate the change.

Description of Change

Pool numbers in the new format will contain six characters, with the first two characters being uppercase letters (in addition to a pool prefix, see below). Except as noted below, they will continue to be assigned in sequential order. For example, when the existing pool number sequence ends at “999999”, the first pool number assigned under the new protocol will be “AA0000”. After we assign “AA9999”, the next number assigned will be “AB0000”. After “AZ9999”, the next number assigned will be “BA0000”, and so on.

Please note that the “MA0000” through “MZ9999” range has been reserved to designate Fannie Major® Pools. Currently, that reservation is the only product-specific pool numbering exception.

No Change to Pool Prefix Format

The change will not impact the pool prefix, which is the two-character alpha-numeric designation assigned to each Fannie Mae MBS that precedes the pool number. Pool prefixes identify the type of mortgage loans in a pool as well as the basic terms of the MBS. For example, the prefix ‘CL’ indicates a pool composed of long-term, level-payment single-family, conventional mortgages that mature or are due in 30 years or less. Therefore a pool comprised of such loans would be identified as “CL-AA1234” in the new format. For more information on pool prefixes see the Pool Prefix Glossary in the Mortgage Backed Securities section of our web site under “Search Tools and Resources.”

For More Information

Please contact the Fixed Income Investor Helpline by phone at 1-800-237-8627 or email at: bestmbs@fanniemae.com

Summary of Pool Numbering Change:

- An alpha-numeric value will be used in place of the current numeric value.
- The first two places of the six-character field will contain upper-case letters.
- The remaining four places of the six-character field will contain numbers.
- Pool prefix assignments will not be impacted.

Example:

- When the existing pool number sequence ends at “999999”, the first pool number assigned under the new protocol will be “AA0000”.
- After we assign “AA9999”, the next number assigned will be “AB0000”.
- After “AZ9999”, the next number assigned will be “BA0000”, and so on.