Appraisal Waivers
Fact Sheet

September 4, 2018

Does every loan delivered to Fannie Mae require an appraisal? What if we have a recent appraisal on file? In some cases, we may be willing to waive the appraisal for certain transactions.

Appraisal waivers are Fannie Mae’s offer to waive the appraisal requirement for eligible transactions. Appraisal waiver offers are issued through Desktop Underwriter® (DU®) using Fannie Mae’s database of more than 31 million appraisal reports in combination with proprietary analytics from Collateral Underwriter® (CU®).

How it works

Appraisal waivers are available to all lenders through DU. There are no prerequisites and no registration process.

When a DU loan casefile receives an appraisal waiver offer and it is exercised by the lender, Fannie Mae accepts the value estimate submitted by the lender as the market value for the subject property and provides relief from enforcement of representations and warranties on the value, condition, and marketability of the property. The lender is required to represent and warrant that the data (other than the value estimate) submitted to DU is complete and accurate, and lenders must order an appraisal if they have reason to believe that an appraisal is warranted based on additional information the lender has about the property or subsequent events.

The majority of transactions will not receive an appraisal waiver offer, which means they require an appraisal by a qualified residential appraiser to establish the market value.

This summary is intended for reference only. All criteria are subject to the formal terms and conditions of the Fannie Mae Selling Guide. In the event of any conflict with this document, the Selling Guide will govern.

**NOTE:** Effective with DU Version 10.1, Desktop Originator® (DO®) loan casefiles underwritten with Preliminary Findings are eligible for the appraisal waiver offer.

Benefits of exercising an appraisal waiver

- **Increased operational efficiencies.** An appraisal waiver can shorten the loan origination process by eliminating the need to obtain and review an appraisal.

- **Day 1 Certainty®.** Exercising an appraisal waiver offer relieves the lender from enforcement of representations and warranties on the value, condition, and marketability of the property.

- **Reduced loan origination costs.** An appraisal waiver provides a no-cost alternative to an appraisal, while eliminating the expense of appraisal-related delays in the origination process.

- **Ease-of-use.** To exercise an appraisal waiver offer, lenders simply provide Special Feature Code (SFC) 801 at time of loan delivery to Fannie Mae.
Eligible and ineligible transactions

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<tr>
<th>Eligible Transactions</th>
<th>Ineligible Transactions</th>
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<tr>
<td>- One-unit properties, including condominiums</td>
<td>- Properties located in a disaster-impacted area, unless Fannie Mae has received an acceptable appraisal of the property that was completed after the disaster occurred*</td>
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| - Limited cash-out refinance transactions:  
  o Principal residences and second homes up to 90% LTV/CLTV | - When the lender has any reason to believe an appraisal is warranted |
| - Investment properties up to 75% LTV/CLTV | - Construction and construction-to-permanent loans |
| - Cash-out refinance transactions:  
  o Principal residences up to 70% LTV/CLTV | - Two- to four-unit properties |
| - Second homes and investment properties up to 60% LTV/CLTV | - Loan casefiles in which the value of the subject property provided to DU is $1,000,000 or greater |
| - Purchase transactions:  
  o Principal residences and second homes up to 80% LTV/CLTV | - HomeStyle® mortgage products (Renovation and Energy) |
| - Loan casefiles that receive an Approve/Eligible recommendation | - Texas 50(a)(6) loans |
| | - Leasehold properties, community land trust homes, or other properties with resale restrictions |
| | - Cooperative units and manufactured homes |
| | - DU loan casefiles that receive an ineligible recommendation |
| | - Loans for which the mortgage insurance provider requires an appraisal |
| | - Loans for which rental income from the subject property is used to qualify |

*When an appraisal waiver is offered on a property located in a disaster area more than 120 days after the disaster ended, lenders can assume that the appraisal waiver is based on an appraisal that was completed after the disaster occurred and can exercise the appraisal waiver. The lender still must confirm the loan meets all other appraisal waiver eligibility criteria.

How to exercise an appraisal waiver offer

To exercise an appraisal waiver offer on a loan casefile that is eligible for an appraisal waiver, the lender must, at time of delivery, include the Fannie Mae casefile ID and SFC 801 in the loan delivery file to receive representation and warranty relief. Additionally, the appraisal waiver offer may not be more than four months old on the date of the note and the mortgage.

If a lender chooses not to exercise the appraisal waiver, at a minimum, the lender is required to follow DU’s appraisal recommendations to deliver the loan to Fannie Mae.

**NOTE:** DU will not offer an appraisal waiver when an appraisal has been uploaded to the Uniform Collateral Data Portal® (UCDP®) within the prior 120 days from any lender.

For more information

For more information, reach out to your account team or call 1-800-2FANNIE (1-800-232-6643), Option 1 (technology support).

Information is also available at [http://www.fanniemae.com/appraisalwaivers](http://www.fanniemae.com/appraisalwaivers)