

## CRS UNIFORM MINIMUM CREDIT GEORGIA

### SUMMARY

The Community Rating System (CRS) provides Uniform Minimum Credit (UMC) for certain state laws, regulations, and standards that support floodplain management within the state and have proven effective in reducing flood damage.

The following table summarizes UMC credit available to all communities. It also includes possible additional credit available for selected areas or state activities. ISO/CRS Specialists and the communities need to determine which possible additional credits apply to their area. These UMCs do not necessarily apply to Tribal Nations.

The range of credit available to communities within the state is shown below, followed by an explanation of each activity. The credit is based on the 2013 *CRS Coordinator's Manual*.

Activity	Element	Credit
<b>Uniform Minimum Credit</b>		
340	Other Disclosure Requirements (ODR)	5
450	Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC)	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Possible Additional Credit</b>		
410	Cooperating Technical Partnership Agreement (CTP1)	10
430	Building Codes (BC)	0 - 48
430	Local Drainage Protection (LDP)	10
450	Stormwater Management Regulations (SMR)	18.9 - 271
450	Water Quality (WQ)	20
630	State Dam Safety (SDS)	0 - 30
	<b>Total</b>	<b>58.9 - 389</b>
<b>Model Ordinance (Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District)</b>		
410	New Study (NS)	varies
410	Higher Study Standards (HSS)	varies
	<b>Total</b>	<b>varies</b>

Credit for activities in the 400 series can increase based on the Community Growth Adjustment. The CRS requires participating communities to maintain elevation certificates, which provide an additional 38 points. Five hundred points are needed for Class 9.

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**Other Disclosure Requirements (ODR)** – 5 points are awarded for requirement that landlords inform tenants of flood hazard if the rented living space has suffered flood damage at least three times in the previous five years.

**Legal basis:** Georgia Code, 44-7-20 at <http://www.lexis-nexis.com/hottopics/gacode/>.

**Annual UMC verification:** ISO/CRS Specialists will verify that the regulations still are still in effect at the national level.

## Activity 450. Stormwater Management

**Erosion & Sedimentation Control (ESC)** – 10 points are awarded for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Program, which requires all construction activities greater than one acre to obtain a permit from the Environmental Protection Agency, a delegated state, or a community with a MS4 permit.

**Legal basis:** <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/authorizationstatus.cfm> and [http://www.gaepd.org/Files\\_PDF/techguide/wp/FINAL\\_GAEPD\\_NPDES\\_MS4\\_PhaseII\\_Small\\_GAG610000\\_Y2012Dec6.pdf](http://www.gaepd.org/Files_PDF/techguide/wp/FINAL_GAEPD_NPDES_MS4_PhaseII_Small_GAG610000_Y2012Dec6.pdf)

**Verification:** ISO/CRS Specialists will verify credit by reviewing permits and erosion control plans.

**Annual UMC verification:** ISO/CRS Specialists will verify that the regulations still are still in effect at the national level.

## POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL CREDIT

Some state standards are eligible for CRS credit, but may not be in effect in every community. These standards are addressed below. ISO/CRS Specialists and the communities need to determine whether they are creditable in their area.

### Activity 410. Floodplain Mapping

**Cooperating Technical Partnership Agreement 1 (CTP1)** – Up to 10 points are awarded for the CTP Agreement between the state and FEMA. This is verified independently by the CTP technical reviewer. Results are distributed once a year.

### Activity 430. Higher Regulatory Standards

**Building Code (BC)** – Up to 48 points may be awarded if the community adopts and enforces the Georgia Building Code. It identifies ten “State Minimum Standard Codes,” based on the International Codes (I-Codes). The 2006 International Building Code, Residential Code, Plumbing Code, Mechanical Code, and Fuel Gas Code are adopted in the state code.

The state codes are adopted at the state level, with administration and enforcement at the local level. The state minimum standard codes are effective throughout the state. Local governments are responsible for enforcing these codes through adoption of local administrative procedures. The Act requires local governments that elect to enforce the codes within their jurisdictions to adopt administrative procedures and penalties to locally enforce the mandatory codes. Under Georgia law, any structure built must comply with the codes, whether or not the local government chooses to locally enforce these codes.

**Legal basis:** The *Uniform Codes Act* is at Chapter 2 of Title 8 of the official code of Georgia, Annotated OCGA Section 8-2-20(9)(B). Codes are online at <http://www.dca.state.ga.us/development/ConstructionCodes/programs/codeAmendments.asp>.

**Verification:** The Specialist will verify that the following sections are adopted: International Building Code: Chapters 3–7, 14–18, and 21–24 and International Residential Code: Chapters 3–6, 8, and 9. If these sections are adopted, but amended, the Building Technical reviewer will need to review it to ensure it meets the credit criteria.

**Annual UMC verification:** ISO/CRS Specialists will verify that the building codes still are in effect at the state level, and are enforced at the local level.

**Local Drainage Protection (LDP)** – 10 points are awarded for requiring positive drainage away from the foundation. The Georgia Building Code is based on the IRC which requires drainage away from all buildings, not just those in special hazard areas (IRC R401.3). IRC Chapter 18 has various requirements about foundation drainage, drainage for foundations, on or adjacent to slopes (Sec. 1808.7), but does not explicitly require lots to be graded to drain away. IBC Appendix J addresses drainage, but it is effective only if explicitly adopted.

**Legal basis:** IBC Chapter 18; IRC Chapter 4 (e.g. R 401.3 and R406).

**Verified by:** ISO/CRS Specialists will review permits, site plans, and similar documents that demonstrate enforcement.

**Annual UMC verification:** ISO/CRS Specialists will verify that the regulations still are in effect.

## Activity 450. Stormwater Management

**Stormwater Management Regulations (SMR)** – From 18.9 to 271 points are provided if a community adopts 2001 Georgia Stormwater Management Manual.

The manual applies the standards to 5,000 square feet of new impervious surface or land disturbing activity of 5,000 square feet of land or more (SZ = 90). Additionally, Overbank Flood Protection requires matching the pre-development peak for the 25-year event, while the minimum Standard suggests that the 100-year post-development peak should be controlled such that flooding is not exacerbated. This may not be creditable depending on local interpretation, but the potential credit for DS is based on the 25-year event, or combination of 25 and 100-year events (DS = 36 or 136). LID credit may also be eligible since the manual states that site designs should preserve natural drainage systems and reduce pollutants (LID = 25). Lastly, an operations and maintenance plan is required for all facilities, but may not require annual inspections and give the community authority, which would be required for any PUB credit (PUB = 20).

**Legal basis:** August 2001 Georgia Stormwater Management Manual, Section 4.2.2(1) of Volume 1, Section 4.2.3 Minimum Standard #1, 4, 5, and 9. The Manual can be found at <http://www.atlantaregional.com/environment/georgia-stormwater-manual>

**Verification:** The community's ordinance provisions and copies of drainage reports are needed to verify credit and will be provided to the technical reviewer for verification.

**Annual UMC verification:** The technical reviewer will recertify annually that the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual is still in full effect.

**Water Quality Regulations (WQ)** – 20 points may be awarded if new developments' stormwater management facilities are required to improve the quality of stormwater management runoff.

**Legal basis:** This is part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Phase II Program requirements.

**Verification:** ISO/CRS Specialists will review a copy of the local ordinance language that requires best management practices for water quality and copies of development plans showing implementation of the law.

**Annual UMC verification:** ISO/CRS Specialists will verify that best management practices for water quality are required.

## Activity 630. Dams

**State Dam Safety (SDS)** – Up to 30 points of credit for State Dam Safety Program activities based on the Dam Safety Program Management Tool. 15 points awarded for Condition Assessment and 15 points for Risk Communication and Public Awareness.

**Verification:** ISO/CRS Specialists will verify that the community is in compliance with the State Dam Safety Program. SDS credit is limited to communities that would be affected by a flood from the failure of a high-hazard-potential dam. This must be documented with a description and a map.

**Annual UMC verification:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Dam Safety Office annually verifies SDS credit.

## POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL CREDIT (Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District)

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MWD) has developed a floodplain management model ordinance to assist communities within the District in avoiding potential flood damages by regulating future-conditions floodplains. The model ordinance is online at

[http://documents.northgeorgiawater.org/MNGWPD\\_FloodplainModOrd.pdf](http://documents.northgeorgiawater.org/MNGWPD_FloodplainModOrd.pdf)

**New Study (NS) and Higher Study Standards (HSS)** – Credit may be awarded for developing and regulating future-conditions floodplain mapping. The studies must be submitted to FEMA, or at least FEMA needs to be made aware that the studies are available. Additionally, the community must regulate development based on the future-conditions flood elevations.

**Legal basis:**

[http://documents.northgeorgiawater.org/MNGWPD\\_FloodplainModOrd.pdf](http://documents.northgeorgiawater.org/MNGWPD_FloodplainModOrd.pdf)

**Verification:** The technical reviewer will verify credit, based on the *CRS Coordinator's Manual*. Documentation will include a copy of the future-conditions flood study and map, the local ordinance adopting the study, and impact adjustment map and area calculations.

**Annual UMC verification:** The technical reviewer will verify that the regulations are still in effect.