



STATE OF ARKANSAS

Date of Verification: Spring 2024

The Community Rating System (CRS) provides credit to communities for certain state laws, regulations, and standards that support floodplain management within a state and have proven effective in reducing flood damage. This Verification Report is provided to explain the recommendations of Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) to DHS/FEMA concerning state-based credits under the CRS within the above state.

There are two sections to this report: State-based credit, and Other potential credit.

State-based credit is awarded to communities for activities that are implemented and enforced by the state. The credit is provided to each community in the state and documentation is not needed from the community.

Other potential credit lists the CRS activities for which communities may receive CRS credit based on, or due to, state or regional programs or regulations that are implemented within the community. There is also information regarding use of a state-based model ordinance, if present in the state. The potential credits must be verified by the ISO/CRS Specialists within each community, since enforcement is done at the community (or regional) level.

The following is a summary of state-based credit and other potential credit based on the *2017 CRS Coordinator's Manual* and *2021 Addendum*:

State-Based Credit

ACTIVITY	ELEMENT	POINTS

No state-based credit has been verified at this time.

Other Potential Credit

ISO/CRS Specialists and the communities need to determine which credits apply to their area. The following is a summary of activities that are potential credits:

ACTIVITY	ELEMENT
430 (Higher Regulatory Standards)	BC1–building codes LDP3–local drainage protection RA–regulation administration
450 (Stormwater Management)	ESC–erosion and sedimentation control WQ–water quality
630 (Dams)	SDS–state dam safety

Activity 430 & Potential Higher Regulatory Standards in the State’s Model Ordinance

State Model Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

The Dam Safety and Floodplain Management Section of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture is the State NFIP Coordinating Agency.

The state’s model flood damage prevention code can be found here:

<https://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/natural-resources/divisions/water-management/floodplain-management/community-official-faqs/>.

Higher standards listed in the ordinance are as follows:

- All critical facilities to be constructed to exceed 500-year flood protections standards or be outside the SFHA.
- All proposals for residential subdivision, commercial business park, or manufactured home park subdivision must include a drainage plan to reduce exposure to flood hazards.
- All proposals for development of commercial business park or manufactured home park/subdivision must include an evacuation plan.
- 2 feet of freeboard or 3 ft floodproofing
- No manufactured homes to be placed in the floodway.

Activity 430 (Higher Regulatory Standards) Element BC1, Building Codes

Effective Jan 1, 2023, Arkansas has adopted the 2021 State Fire Prevention Code, which is based on the 2021 International Fire, Building, and Residential Codes, with some Arkansas changes. The state

has also adopted the 2018 International Plumbing Code, 2021 International Mechanical Code, and 2018 International Fuel Gas Code.

- IBC Chapter 1 and Appendix G are adopted. <https://codes.iccsafe.org/codes/arkansas>

The code applies statewide, even in rural and unincorporated areas, but does not appear to be mandatory for municipalities to adopt. Municipalities that have adopted the codes are required to only use the most updated versions of the code, or language that is more stringent than the most updated state code. Because building codes are adopted at the local level; specialists will verify the community's adopted building code status.

[Building Codes » Arkansas Department of Labor and Licensing](#)

Activity 430 (Higher Regulatory Standards) Element LDP3, Local Drainage Protection

The state has adopted the IBC requirement for fill/grading to be compacted and to slope away from buildings to provide positive drainage and minimize erosion. If the local community has adopted the state building code, and can document enforcement of the positive drainage provisions, 10 points is available. Relevant IBC section: 1804.4.

Activity 430 (Higher Regulatory Standards) Element RA, Regulations Administration

The State of Arkansas requires each floodplain administrator to become accredited by the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission. *Verification: RA1 provides credit for trained regulatory staff members. Specialists will verify the state's accreditation status details, to determine credit eligibility.*

Citation: [AR Code § 14-268-106 \(2020\)](#)

2019 Arkansas Code

Title 14 - Local Government

Subtitle 16 - Public Health and Welfare Generally

Chapter 268 - Flood Loss Prevention

§ 14-268-106. Floodplain Administrator

Universal Citation: AR Code § 14-268-106 (2019)

(a) Each county, city, or town ordinance adopted under this chapter shall designate a person to serve as the floodplain administrator to administer and implement the ordinance and any local codes and regulations relating to the management of flood-prone areas.

(b) Beginning July 1, 2004, each floodplain administrator shall become accredited by the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission under the commission's authority regarding flood control under §§ 15-24-102 and 15-24-109.

Activity 450 (Stormwater Management)

ESC–EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL WQ–WATER QUALITY

Under the state’s Construction General Permit ARR150000, any land disturbance of one acre or larger requires the development and maintenance of a stormwater pollution plan, which includes erosion and sedimentation control measures.

The Arkansas Construction General Permit is required for Operators of construction activities resulting in land disturbance equal to or greater than one acre; or less than one acre and are part of a larger common plan of development or sale that ultimately disturbs one or more acres. The permit requires water quality protections to be identified in the stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPP).

Citations:

https://www.adeg.state.ar.us/water/permits/npdes/stormwater/pdfs/construction/arr150000_final_permit_signed_ajy.pdf.

Activity 630 (Dams) Element SDS, State Dam Safety

Credit available for activities of the state's dam safety program is based on the Dam Safety Program Management Tool. Credit for element SDS 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.

- The Arkansas Department of Natural Resources oversees the state’s dam safety program: <https://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/natural-resources/divisions/water-management/dam-safety/>

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers National Inventory of Dams webpage at <https://nid.sec.usace.army.mil/#/> documents the dams and flood inundation maps information. [FEMA’s Dam Safety](#) Office annually verifies element SDS credit.