

Raising the Bar!

Greetings!

We're back! We took a break for a couple of months from our newsletter to ensure our resources were 100% committed to implementing the changes necessary to accommodate TRID and other industry related compliance issues. We have done that and are hoping to see you in our offices soon!

November marks the beginning of the holiday season and the time during which most everyone spends time with family & friends giving thanks and celebrating the wonderful things going on in life. This is no different for us! We would like to take this opportunity to give special thanks to the loyal agents and loan officers that help to make our firm a



success year after year. We simply couldn't do it without each of you and for that we are so very thankful.

7 TRID Facts that Every Realtor should know!



Gone are the days of the HUD-1 settlement statement! We have begun using the new Closing Disclosure ("CD") statement for all new loan applications taken after 10/3/15. In some instances we are being asked to prepare the

new CDfor the certain lenders but for the most part lenders have elected to provide this document directly to their borrower(s). There are however certain things that you need to know that relate to the CD that will help you provide top notch service to your clients. Below are 7 facts that you can not afford not to know!

1. Pre-approvals and pre-qualifications are unchanged by the rule.

The rule does not make changes to pre-approvals or pre-qualifications. However, the CFPB advises that your clients are likely to have a smoother path from contract to closing if they invest time and effort in learning about mortgage loans and understanding what kind of financing they qualify for prior to selecting a home. Ideally,

before they select a home, clients will have talked with one or more lenders and have decided on the specific type of loan that will best meet their needs. If they feel confident they will be able to obtain financing this will enhance their ability to request and receive meaningful Loan Estimates for comparison.

2. The application process begins with a Loan Estimate.

The application process will typically begin after your client has identified a property. Lenders must provide Loan Estimates within three business days after your clients have provided that lender with their name, income, Social Security number, address of the home they would like to purchase, an estimate of the home's value (usually the sales price) and the amount they want to borrow.

Currently, comparing multiple loans may be cumbersome because each lender might have different requirements, including extensive written documentation. Now that TRID has taken effect, although lenders may accept and consider income verification documents and other information voluntarily provided, they cannot require this documentation as a condition of providing a Loan Estimate. As a result, your clients should have a much easier time getting and comparing Loan Estimates from different lenders.

Issuing a Loan Estimate does not mean that the lender has approved or denied the loan. By issuing the Loan Estimate, the lender has only committed to honoring the fees described in the Loan Estimate, as long as the loan is later approved without any changes in circumstance affecting the loan application.

3. Your clients must indicate their intent to proceed.

After your clients have compared Loan Estimates and determined which loan best meets their needs, they need to let the lender know. If they are silent, the lender cannot assume they intend to proceed. In that scenario, lenders can't charge any fees in connection with the mortgage application, including an application or appraisal fee. The only exception is a reasonable fee for the credit report. Lenders can't even request credit card information or a post-dated check to be charged or cashed later until the client states his intent.

Different lenders may have different requirements for what your clients need to do to indicate their intent to proceed. If 10 business days pass without the client stating an intention, the lender is no longer required to honor the terms offered in the initial Loan Estimate. If that happens, the lender will close the application - and your clients will have to start over from the beginning.

4. Once your clients indicate their intent to proceed, lenders can charge fees.

Because lenders cannot collect payment information in advance, they may require your clients to provide payment for an appraisal, application or other loan processing fee immediately after or as a part of confirming the intent to proceed with the application. Lenders may require payment before beginning the appraisal, processing, verification or underwriting processes.

5. A changed circumstance may mean a revised Loan Estimate or a revised Closing Disclosure.

There may be some instances in which the lender will have to issue a revised Loan



Estimate or Closing Disclosure - the CFPB refers to these instances as "changed circumstances." Not all changes require the lender to issue a revised Loan Estimate. Minor changes, such as when the seller agrees to pay for a specific cost not included in the original agreement, do not require the lender to issue a revised Loan Estimate. But significant changes most likely do, the CFPB cautions.

Some of the more common reasons a Loan Estimate may be revised include: a client deciding to change loan programs or the amount of the down payment; the appraisal on the home came in higher or lower than expected; a client's credit status changed, perhaps owing to a new loan or a missed payment; or the lender could not document overtime, bonus or other income provided on the client's application.

If changes occur later in the mortgage process, lenders may need time to respond. For example, if your client requests a different loan program late in the process, an appraisal or underwriting step may need to be repeated.

6. Your client must receive the Closing Disclosure at least three business days prior to closing.

The CFPB's intent here was to eliminate any significant changes from the lender that put pressure on clients to sign on the same day. The Closing Disclosure can be compared with the information contained in the initial or a revised Loan Estimate (or, in the case of a revised Closing Disclosure, the initial Closing Disclosure). Flexibility has been built into the rule to accom

modate small, last-minute changes typical of purchase transactions. However, when changes to the transaction are significant, a new three-business-day review period is required. Since large, last-minute changes should be rare, an additional review period should also be rare.

To provide a Closing Disclosure three business days before the closing that reflects all of the terms of the transaction, settlement agents and creditors need as much information from the buyer, the seller and the agents about the transaction as far in advance of closing as possible. The Closing Disclosure must contain the buyer's and the seller's real estate brokerages' and agents' names, addresses, state license ID numbers, email addresses and phone numbers. If this information is unknown, the form can't be completed. You need to communicate this information to the lender to prevent any delays.

7. Extra three-day reviews are unlikely.

While most changes that come up in the last few days before settlement will not delay a closing, there are three major changes to loan terms that will require the lender to issue a revised Closing Disclosure and will trigger a new three-business-day review period:

- The annual percentage rate (APR) increases by more than 1/8 of a percent for regular loans (most fixed-rate loans) or 1/4 of a percent for irregular loans (most

adjustable loans). A decrease in APR will not require a new three-day review if it is based on changes to the interest rate or other fees.

- A prepayment penalty is added, making it expensive to refinance or sell.



- The basic loan product changes, such as a switch from fixed rate to adjustable interest rate or to a loan with interest-only payments.

Your clients generally may not waive their right to this review period.

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