

CHAPTER 9. ELIGIBLE MORTGAGES, POOLS AND LOAN PACKAGES

PART 1. OVERVIEW OF CHAPTER

Effective Date: 2018-01-25

This chapter describes basic mortgage and pool and loan package eligibility requirements for Ginnie Mae MBS pools and loan packages. Special requirements that apply to HMBS pools can be found in MBS Guide, Ch. 35.

PART 2. MORTGAGE REQUIREMENTS

Each issuance of securities must be backed by a separate pool of mortgages (or, in the case of some multifamily pools, a single mortgage) each of which, except as otherwise specified, must comply with the following requirements. Additional exceptions and requirements, if any, for particular pool types can be found in MBS Guide, Ch. 24 through 32 and 35.

Section A. Insurance / Guaranty

Effective Date: 2018-01-25

Each mortgage must be, and must remain, insured or guaranteed under the National Housing Act, Title V of the Housing Act of 1949, the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, chapter 37 of Title 38, United States Code, or section 184 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992, and must at all times comply with the requirements for obtaining and maintaining such insurance or guaranty.

Section B. Loan Amount

Effective Date: 2026-01-01

See MBS Guide, Ch. 24, 31 and 32 for additional requirements for maximum loan amounts and High Balance Loans (as defined below).

Pursuant to the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA), the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) has announced increased conforming loan limits. Accordingly, Ginnie Mae is revising its definition of High Balance Loans as follows. Effective for issuances on or after January 1, 2026, a High Balance Loan is defined as a single-family forward mortgage loan with an original principal balance (minus the amount of any upfront mortgage insurance premium or the VA Funding Fee) that exceeds the following limits:

Maximum Loan Amounts (net of any financed MIP or Guaranty Fee)		
Units	Contiguous States, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico	Alaska, Guam, Hawaii, U.S. Virgin Islands
1	\$832,750	\$1,249,125
2	\$1,066,250	\$1,599,375
3	\$1,288,800	\$1,933,200
4	\$1,601,750	\$2,402,625

Additional information on conforming loan limits for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands may be obtained directly from FHFA. High Balance Loans are eligible for Ginnie Mae MBS subject to the restrictions detailed in MBS Guide, Ch. 9, Part 2, § B and Ch. 24 Part 2, § A(1).

With respect to Ginnie Mae I "X BD" and "X SN" pool types as well as Ginnie Mae II "M JM", "M FS", "All ARMS", "C SF", "C RG", "C ET" and "C BD" pool types, Issuers may pool High Balance Loans in excess of 10% of the original principal balance of each pool or loan package.

Section C. Date of First Payment

Effective Date: 2021-10-29

For mortgages backing SF, FS, BD, GPM, GEM, ARM, RG, ET and SN pools, there is no age limitation as to the first payment date, provided the loans meet the maturity requirement specified in MBS Guide Ch. 24, Part 2, § B(3). However, and in order to avoid possible negative tax implications to foreign investors, Ginnie Mae will not allow any loans originated prior to 1985 to be included in new pool or loan package issuances.

For mortgages backing MH pools, the date of the first scheduled monthly payment of principal and interest must be no more than 48 months before the issuance date of the securities.

For multifamily loans, the date for the first scheduled monthly payment of principal and interest must be no more than 24 months before the issue date of the securities, except in the case of LM loans (*Please See MBS Guide Chapter 31, Part 1*)

Section D. Amortization

Effective Date: 2021-10-29

For the following pool types, each mortgage must commence amortization no later than the month immediately following the month in which the issue date of the securities occurs: SF, FS, BD, AQ, AR, AT, AF, AS, AX, FT, RL, QL, TL, FL, FB, SL, XL, GP, GT, GA, GD, JM, RG, ET and SN. Each MH loan must commence amortization no later than the issue date. (*Please See MBS Guide Chapter 31 and 32 for the specific chapters relating to PL, PN, LM, LS, RX, CL, and CS pools for special requirements relating to commencement of amortization*)

Section E. Loan Status at Pooling

Effective Date: 2021-10-29

As of the pooling date, no more than one (1) monthly payment on the pooled mortgages can be due and unpaid. For example, if the pooling date of a January 1 single family security is December 28, then in order to be eligible for pooling, the November payment on the loan must have been paid, and the only payment that may be due is the December payment. If the pooling date of a January 1 single family security is January 5, then in order to be eligible for pooling, the December payment on the loan must have been paid, and the only payment that may be due is the January payment. This requirement applies to all single family securities except for securities issued for the purpose of consolidating outstanding pools that are financed by housing bonds.

For manufactured home loans, no loan may be more than 15 days delinquent, and each project loan and construction loan must be current, as of the issuance date of the related securities.

Modified loans that have successfully completed the modification process per the insuring agencies' requirements and have been permanently modified may be re-pooled (note that loans previously pooled into Ginnie Mae securities must satisfy the requirements of Chapter 18, Part 3, §B before they can be bought out of the pools for modification). In order to be eligible for re-pooling, the permanently modified loan must be current as of the issuance date of the related security.

Section F. Limitation against Encumbrances

Effective Date: 2026-01-22

At the time the assignments to Ginnie Mae become effective (i.e., when the securities are issued to the subscribers designated on the Schedule of Subscribers and Ginnie Mae Guaranty Agreement, form HUD 11705 (Appendix III-6)), the pooled mortgages must not be subject to any security interest, beneficial interest, or other encumbrance arising from any previous or future assignment, pledge, hypothecation or transfer any of the Issuer's right, title, and interest in and to the mortgages.

The Issuer must provide the document custodian with releases by the interim lenders of all security interests in mortgages included in a specific pool or loan package (see Release of Security Interest, form HUD 11711A (Appendix III-5)). In addition, the Issuer must certify that these releases encompass all mortgages in the pool or loan package (see Certification and Agreement, form HUD 11711B (Appendix III-5)). If there are no security interests, the Issuer must certify that fact on form HUD 11711B.

The Issuer may pledge its servicing income or servicing rights in pooled mortgages in accordance with MBS Guide, Ch. 21, Parts 5 and 6.

Section G. Prohibition on Pooling of Planned Refinance and Certain Premium Loans

Effective Date: 2018-01-25

It is Ginnie Mae's policy to prohibit the pooling of planned refinance loans and certain premium interest rate loans, as defined below.

(1) Planned Refinance Loans

A planned refinance loan is a premium loan that the lender and borrower have agreed to refinance at a later date and at an interest rate that is lower than the current rate on the loan. The lender and borrower agree that the reduction in the interest rate will be less than the basis point decline that occurs in the mortgage market between the time that the original interest rate on the loan is established and the time the loan is refinanced. The agreement can be either oral or in writing and can be established at or prior to the closing of the loan agreed to be refinanced.

(2) Premium Loans

A premium loan, for purposes of this section, is a pooled mortgage on a one- to four-family dwelling that is originated or refinanced with an interest rate at least 1.5 percentage points (150 basis points) higher than the interest rate on new Ginnie Mae securities valued closest to par on the date the interest rate on the mortgage was established.

(a) For any premium loan, the Issuer's expected proceeds above par value from the sale of securities collateralized by premium loans must be reasonably related to the closing costs customarily paid by borrowers in the geographic area in which the loan is closed. In identifying the Issuer's excess proceeds, Ginnie Mae will not include any gain or loss attributable to a change in mortgage market interest rates that occurred between the date on which the interest rate on the mortgage was established and the distribution date of the related securities.

- (b) A premium loan that is not subject to a planned refinance agreement, as defined above, but is the result of a refinance of a prior premium loan cannot be pooled, except as provided in (c) below, if the Issuer, originator, or any interim party solicited the borrower to initiate the refinance.
- (c) If a premium loan is refinanced by a second premium loan, the second premium loan may be pooled only if the interest rate on the second loan is lower than the interest rate on the prior loan by at least the basis point decline in mortgage market interest rates, offset to the extent of any closing costs to be paid out of the proceeds of the sale of the related securities, between the date on which the prior mortgage interest rate was established and the date on which the current mortgage interest rate was established.

Section H. Other Requirements

Effective Date: 2018-01-25

Mortgages must meet any other requirements prescribed by Ginnie Mae in its Commitment to Guarantee MBS, form HUD 11704 (Appendix II-2), including the right to require unusual hazard coverage such as insurance against flood, earthquake, and other catastrophes.

Section I. Defective Mortgages

Effective Date: 2018-01-25

Mortgages that do not meet the requirements set forth above are defective and must be removed from the pool in accordance with MBS Guide, Ch. 14, Part 8, § D.

PART 3. POOL AND LOAN PACKAGE REQUIREMENTS

Each pool and loan package must meet the following requirements, except as otherwise noted. Additional requirements and exceptions, if any, for particular pool types can be found in MBS Guide, Ch. 24 through 32 and 35.

Section A. Number of Issuers Per Pool

Effective Date: 2018-01-25

- (1) Ginnie Mae I pools:

A Ginnie Mae I pool must be originated and administered by a single Issuer, who markets all of the related securities.

- (2) Ginnie Mae II pools and loan packages:

An Issuer may participate in the Ginnie Mae II MBS Program by issuing a custom pool or by participating in the issuance of a multiple Issuer pool.

- (a) Custom pools:

A Ginnie Mae II custom pool must be originated and administered by a single Issuer, who markets all of the related securities.

- (b) Multiple Issuer pool (MIP):

A Ginnie Mae II multiple Issuer pool is a single pool in which one or more Issuers participate. Ginnie Mae may, in its sole discretion, restrict the ability of an Issuer to participate in multiple Issuer pools. An Issuer's participation in a multiple Issuer pool, when such participation has been expressly restricted by Ginnie Mae in writing, constitutes an event of non-compliance under this Guide.

The mortgages submitted by each participating Issuer are referred to as a loan package. The combined loan packages are used to back a single issuance of securities.

An Issuer that pools a loan package designates at the time of submission that it wishes to participate in a multiple Issuer pool. If Issuer A submits an eligible loan package and designates it for a multiple Issuer pool for a specified issue date and at a specified interest rate, and no other Issuer submits a loan package for the same issue date and interest rate, a "multiple Issuer pool" will be formed consisting of only Issuer A's single loan package. Most multiple Issuer pools, however, have two or more participating Issuers.

Each participating Issuer originates and is responsible for administering only the loan package that it submits and for marketing securities in an amount equal to the original principal amount of the loan package that it contributes to the multiple Issuer pool.

Each security issued in connection with the formation of a multiple Issuer pool is backed by all of the mortgages in the pool and not merely by the loan package submitted by the Issuer that marketed that particular security.

Section B. First Payment Date

Effective Date: 2018-01-25

- (1) Under the Ginnie Mae I MBS Program, the first payment due security holders will be made 45 days from the issuance date.
- (2) Under the Ginnie Mae II MBS Program, the first payment due security holders will be made 50 days from the issuance date for loans pooled in MBS securities, and for HMBS securities, on a date pursuant to event conditions described in MBS Guide, Ch. 35.

Section C. Maturity

Effective Date: 2018-01-25

- (1) Under the Ginnie Mae I MBS Program, the maturity date of the securities is the 15th day of the month in which the underlying pooled mortgage with the latest maturity expires.
- (2) Under the Ginnie Mae II MBS Program, the maturity date of the securities is the 20th day of the month in which the underlying pooled mortgage with the latest maturity expires.
- (3) Each pool or loan package must consist of mortgages with maturities that are permitted under the FHA, VA, RD or § 184 loan programs.

Section D. Number of Loans

Effective Date: 2021-10-29

- (1) Ginnie Mae I MBS pools:

Except as provided in MBS Guide, Ch. 24, Part 2, § B(2) with respect to state or local bond financing programs, as of the date of issuance, each SF, BD, GPM, and GEM pool must include at least 3 loans.

As of the date of issue, each SN and MH pool must include at least 8 loans; no loan may represent more than 20 percent of the original amount of an MH or SN pool.

As of the date of issue, each multifamily pool must include the number of loans specified in MBS Guide, Ch. 31 or 32.

(2) Ginnie Mae II MBS custom pools:

Except as provided in MBS Guide, Ch. 24, Part 2, § B(2) with respect to state or local housing bond financing programs, as of the date of issue, each SF, RG, ARM, GPM, and GEM MBS pool must include at least 3 loans. Each MH pool must include at least 8 loans. HMBS custom pool requirements are discussed in MBS Guide, Ch. 35.

(3) Ginnie Mae II multiple Issuer pools:

As of the date of issue, each SF, FS, JM, ARM, GPM or GEM loan package must include at least one loan. The minimum loan amount is \$25,000. For all multiple Issuer pools with an August 1, 2010 issuance and thereafter, the security coupon rate must be in half or whole percentages. As of the date of issue, each MH loan package must include the number of loans indicated in the following table:

Original Principal Amount of Loan Package	Minimum Number of Loans Required
250,000 to 299,999	3
300,000 to 499,999	4
500,000 to 599,999	5
600,000 to 749,999	6
750,000 to 999,999	7
1,000,000 or more	8

Section E. Mortgages Registered With MERS

Effective Date: 2018-01-25

- (1) MERS records reflect the identity of the Issuers and Ginnie Mae's interest in the mortgages. Notes for mortgages registered with MERS are to be endorsed in blank by the Issuers registering the mortgages on MERS. The note endorsement will not reflect the transfer to MERS or any transfer of the mortgage as long as the mortgage remains on the MERS system.
- (2) In consideration for Ginnie Mae's consent to the registration on the MERS system of mortgages backing Ginnie Mae MBS, Issuers, by registering such loans on the MERS system: (a) waive any and all rights under the MERS rules and acknowledge Ginnie Mae's right and authority, in the event of Issuer default, to instruct MERS, and for MERS to comply with Ginnie Mae's instructions, and (b) are liable to Ginnie Mae if they provide false information to MERS in connection with the Ginnie Mae MBS Program.

(3) Upon issuance of a Ginnie Mae MBS, an Issuer must register Ginnie Mae as “investor,” and must enter the pool or loan package number on the MERS system.

Section F. Escrow Accounts

Effective Date: 2018-01-25

Funds required to be placed in escrow accounts must be deposited in the appropriate servicer's escrow custodial account established for the pool or loan package of which the loan is a part.

Section G. High Balance Loans

Effective Date: 2025-05-19

High Balance Loans are defined in MBS Guide, Ch. 9, Part 2, § B. Effective January 1, 2009 High Balance Loans may only be pooled in the following pool types:

Summary Table of Eligible Pool Types for High Balance Loans	
Pool Type	Limits
X SF	Aggregate amount of the issue date unpaid principal balance of the High Balance Loans cannot exceed 10% of the original principal balance of the pool or loan package
M SF	M SF Aggregate amount of the issue date unpaid principal balance of the High Balance Loans cannot exceed 10% of the original principal balance of the pool or loan package.
M JM	No limit
M FS	No limit
All ARMs	No limit
X BD	No limit
X SN	No limit
C SF	No limit
C RG	No limit
C ET	No limit
C BD	No limit