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to terminate the affordability restrictions on the project through prepayment of the mortgage or termination of the mortgage insurance contract. The notice of intent shall also request the tenants to notify the owner, the Commissioner, and the State or local officer identified in the notice of intent of any individual or organization that has been designated or retained by the tenants to represent the tenants with respect to the actions to be taken under subpart B of this part.

(c) *Filing with the State or local government and tenants.* The owner simultaneously shall file the notice of intent with the chief executive officer of the appropriate State or local government in which the project is located, or any officer designated by executive order or State or local law to receive such information, and with the mortgagee. In addition, the owner shall deliver a copy of the notice of intent to each occupied unit in the project and to any tenant representative, if any, known to the owner, and shall post a copy of the notice of intent in readily accessible locations within each affected building of the project. The copies of the notice of intent delivered to the tenants and the tenant representative shall include a summary of possible outcomes of the filing which shall be furnished by the Commissioner. Upon the request of any non-English speaking tenants residing in the affected project, the owner shall tabulate the number and type of translations needed by the tenants and request the local HUD field office to provide the appropriate translations. The owner shall deliver a copy of the translated notice of intent to all of the tenants who requested such translation. The failure of an owner to comply with any non-federal notice requirements shall not invalidate the notice of intent.

**§ 248.111 Appraisal and preservation value of eligible low income housing.**

(a) *Appraisal.* Upon receiving a notice of intent indicating an intent to extend the low income affordability restrictions under § 248.153 or transfer the project under § 248.157, the Commissioner shall provide for determination

of the preservation values of the project pursuant to this section.

(b) *Notice.* Within 30 days after the filing of a notice of intent to extend the income restrictions or to transfer the project, the Commissioner shall provide the owner with written notice of—

(1) The need for, and the rules and guidelines governing, an appraisal of the project;

(2) The filing deadline for submission of the appraisal;

(3) The need for an appraiser retained by the Commissioner to inspect the project and the project's financial records; and

(4) Any delegation to an appropriate State agency, if any, by the Commissioner of responsibilities regarding the performance of an appraisal pursuant to this section.

(c) *Appraisers.* The Commissioner and the owner shall each select and compensate an appraiser who shall:

(1) Neither be an employee of the Federal Government nor an employee or officer of any entity that is affiliated with the owner or the mortgagee of record;

(2) Be certified by the appropriate State agency under the standards established by the Federal Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1451-1459); and

(3) Have six years of experience in the appraisal profession and at least three years experience in the practice of appraising multifamily residential properties;

(4) Is not the subject of a charge issued following a reasonable cause determination under the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601-3619).

(d) *Guidelines.* The Commissioner shall provide to the owner and the appraiser retained by the Commissioner guidelines for conducting the appraisal. The guidelines established by the Commissioner shall be consistent with customary appraisal standards. The guidelines shall assume repayment of the existing federally-assisted mortgage(s), termination of the existing Federal low income affordability restrictions, simultaneous termination of any Federal rental assistance, and costs of compliance with any State or

local laws of general applicability. The guidelines may permit reliance upon assessments of rehabilitation needs and other conversion costs determined by an appropriate State agency, as determined by the Commissioner.

(e) *Operating expenses.* For the purpose of determining preservation values, the guidelines shall instruct the appraiser to use the greater of actual project operating expenses at the time of the appraisal, based on the average of the actual project operating expenses during the preceding three years, or projected operating expenses after conversion, as determined by the Commissioner. However, if the current year operating expenses are higher than those of the preceding three years and the Commissioner has made a determination that these costs are unlikely to decrease in the future, the appraiser shall use current year operating expenses rather than operating expenses for the preceding three years for purposes of comparison with projected operating expenses after conversion. Likewise, if the current year operating expenses are lower than those of the preceding years and the Commissioner has made a determination that these costs are unlikely to increase in the future, the appraiser shall use current year operating expenses rather than operating expenses for the preceding three years for purposes of comparison with projected expenses after conversion. Where the highest and best use of a project is not as rental housing, the appraiser shall use projected operating expenses assuming conversion of the project to its highest and best use.

(f) *Preservation values.* The preservation values will be determined on the basis of the appraisals conducted by the owner's and the Commissioner's independent appraisers. Each appraiser will determine both the extension preservation value and the transfer preservation value, regardless of the owner's intentions as indicated in the notice of intent.

(g) *Highest and best use as residential property.* In determining the extension preservation value of the project, the appraiser shall assume conversion of the project to market-rate rental housing. The appraiser shall, in accordance

with the guidelines established by the Commissioner, determine the amount of rehabilitation expenditures, if any, that would be necessary to bring the project up to quality standards required to attract and sustain a market-rate tenancy upon conversion and assess other costs that the owner could reasonably be expected to incur if the owner converted the property to market-rate multifamily rental housing.

(h) *Highest and best use.* In determining the transfer preservation value for the project, the appraiser shall assume conversion of the project to highest and best use for the property, and shall, in accordance with the guidelines established by the Commissioner, determine the amount of any rehabilitation expenditures, including demolition, that would be necessary to convert the project to such use and assess other costs that the owner could reasonably be expected to incur if the owner converted the property to its highest and best use.

(i) *Submission of appraisal.* Within four months after the filing of the notice of intent:

(1) The owner shall submit to the HUD Field Office in whose jurisdiction the project is located, the appraisal made by the owner's selected appraiser; and

(2) The Commissioner's selected appraiser shall conduct and submit an appraisal to the Commissioner.

(j) *Joint determination of preservation values.* No later than one month after the owner and the Commissioner exchange appraisals, the owner and the Commissioner shall, on the basis of the appraisals delivered to them, agree on the preservation values of the project. If no agreement as to preservation values can be reached, the owner and the Commissioner shall jointly select a third appraiser meeting the qualifications set forth in paragraph (c) of this section by the end of six months from the date that the notice of intent was filed. The cost of this third appraisal shall be borne equally by both parties. The third appraiser must comply with the guidelines set forth in paragraph (d) of this section and must conduct the appraisal and submit an appraisal within two months after accepting the assignment. The determination by the

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third appraiser of the project's preservation values shall be binding on both the owner and the Commissioner.

(k) *Timeliness of appraisals.* The Commissioner may approve a plan of action to receive incentives under §§ 248.153, 248.157 or 248.161 only based upon an appraisal conducted in accordance with this section that is not more than 30 months old, unless the failure of the Commissioner to approve the plan of action within the 30-month period was due to circumstances beyond the control of the owner.

[57 FR 12041, Apr. 8, 1992, as amended at 58 FR 4871, Jan. 15, 1993]

**§ 248.121 Annual authorized return and aggregate preservation rents.**

(a) *Annual authorized return.* For each eligible low income housing project appraised under § 248.111, the Commissioner shall set an annual authorized return on the project equal to 8 percent of the extension preservation equity.

(b) *Aggregate preservation rents.* For each eligible low income housing project appraised under § 248.111, the Commissioner shall also determine the aggregate preservation rents. The aggregate preservation rents shall be used solely for the purposes of comparison with the Federal cost limit under § 248.123. Actual rents received by the owner (or a qualified purchaser) shall be determined pursuant to §§ 248.153, 248.157, and 248.161.

(c) *Extension preservation rent.* The extension preservation rent shall be the gross potential income for the project, as determined by the Commissioner, that would be required to support—

(1) The annual authorized return determined under paragraph (a) of this section;

(2) Debt service on any rehabilitation loan for the project, assuming a market rate of interest and customary terms;

(3) Debt service on the federally-assisted mortgage(s) for the project;

(4) Project operating expenses as determined by the Commissioner; and

(5) Adequate reserves.

(d) *Transfer preservation rent.* The transfer preservation rent shall be the gross potential income for the project, as determined by the Commissioner, that would be required to support—

(1) Debt service on the loan for acquisition of the project;

(2) Debt service on any rehabilitation loan for the project, assuming a market rate of interest and customary terms;

(3) Debt service on the federally-assisted mortgage(s) for the project;

(4) Project operating expenses as determined by the Commissioner; and

(5) Adequate reserves.

(e) *Adequate reserves and operating expenses.* For purposes of this section—

(1) Adequate reserves are the amount of funds which, when added to existing reserves, are sufficient to maintain the project, including needed deferred maintenance, at a level that meets the standards set forth in § 248.147; and

(2) Project operating expenses shall be based on operating expenses for the preceding 3 years, adjusted for reasonable reductions in operating costs due to rehabilitation and energy improvements. For purposes of comparison to the gross rents used in determining the Federal cost limit, project operating expenses shall include the cost of utilities paid by the residents.

(f) *Debt service.* For purposes of this section, the amount of debt service for an acquisition loan will be estimated based on the maximum loan to which the purchaser is entitled under § 241.1067 of this chapter. The debt service on any rehabilitation loan will be estimated using costs derived from the appraisals conducted under § 248.111, taking into account any funds provided for rehabilitation by State or local governments and assuming market rate interest rates.

**§ 248.123 Determination of Federal cost limit.**

(a) *Initial determination.* For each eligible low income housing project appraised under § 248.111, the Commissioner shall determine whether the aggregate preservation rents for the project exceed the amount determined by multiplying the number of dwelling units in the project, according to appropriate unit sizes, by 120 percent of the section 8 existing fair market rent for the appropriate unit sizes.

(b) *Relevant local markets.* If either the extension or transfer preservation rent for a project exceeds the amount