

Elevation Certificates: Guidelines for Determining the Conversion from NGVD 1929 to NAVD 1988

http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/VERTCON/vert_con.prl

NAVD 1988 is replacing NGVD 1929 as the national standard reference datum for elevations. To determine the conversion from NGVD to NAVD, contact the community official. The surveyor may have applied the conversion factor to the elevations entered on the EC. Unless the surveyor's comments specifically state that the conversion was not performed, assume that line items C2.a–h have already been converted to the same elevation datum as the BFE reported in box B9. Following this guidance will ensure consistent application at the policy processing level.

If the surveyor has not applied the conversion factor, the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) has developed a tool that will help you convert the LFE and BFE measurements to like form. This tool is available through the NGS website at https://www.ngs.noaa.gov/cgin/VERTCON/vert_con.prl. Enter the north latitude and west longitude of the structure. Enter "ft" in the orthometric height field. The conversion factor will then be provided for calculations.

For example, to convert a property with a latitude of 35° 15' and longitude of 121° 22' 30" from NGVD 29 to NAVD 88, enter the latitude and longitude in the degrees, minutes, seconds format (just replace the °, ', " symbols with a space).

Enter the elevation to be converted in NGVD 29 (e.g., top of bottom floor, top of next-higher floor, bottom of lowest horizontal structural member, or lowest adjacent grade next to the building). If the elevation is measured in feet (most places other than Puerto Rico), be sure to include "ft" after the elevation so that the results will be in feet.

As an example, enter a building elevation of 54.2 ft. Select Vertical Datum NGVD 29 and click on Submit. The result produced by VERTCON for this latitude and longitude will display a conversion factor of 2.726 feet and a building elevation of 56.926 feet NAVD 88. Shown in tenths of a foot, the building elevation is 56.9 feet NAVD 88.

To convert a property from NAVD 88 to NGVD 29, enter data as above. Be sure to select Vertical Datum NAVD 88, then click on Submit. The result produced by VERTCON shows a conversion factor of 2.726 feet. Use the building elevation of 54.2 ft. The building elevation in NGVD 29 is 51.474 feet. Shown in tenths of a foot, the building elevation is 51.4 feet NGVD 29.

The above is taken from National Flood Insurance Program, Flood Insurance Manual, May 2011, Revised January 2013. Posted by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Floodplain Management Program 406.444.0862. http://dnrc.mt.gov/wrd/water_op/floodplain/ Feb. 2013