

## GENERAL ADDENDUM TO CONTRACT OF SALE

FOR USE WITH THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® RESIDENTIAL CONTRACT OF SALE FORM

Addendum Number \_\_\_\_\_ to Contract of Sale (the "Contract") dated \_\_\_\_\_

Buyer(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Seller(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Property: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. LEGAL REQUIREMENT:** A Contract for the sale of real property is required to be in writing to be enforceable under the laws of the State of Maryland. Once signed by the parties, the Contract becomes a legally binding agreement. The original terms of the Contract can only be altered thereafter with the agreement of the parties expressed in writing. All parties have the right to be represented by an attorney and are encouraged to seek competent advice if they do not understand any term(s) of the Contract. The broker/agent is required to promptly submit all written Contract offers to the Seller.

**2. INTENDED USE:** The use of a particular property may be limited or restricted as a result of zoning laws, local ordinances and/or restrictive covenants applicable to the property. The Contract of Sale form provided by the broker/agent is designed and intended for use only in the purchase and sale of single-family residences or unimproved residential property. If Buyer intends to use a property for any other purpose, the standard Contract of Sale form may not adequately serve to protect Buyer's interests without the addition of an appropriate clause or addendum conditioning the Contract offer upon a determination that Buyer's intended use of the Property will be permitted.

**3. SETTLEMENT:** All persons to be in title and/or responsible where a mortgage is to be created should be present at the time of settlement and may be required to provide proper identification. Prior to settlement, a lender normally requires that Buyer obtain and provide a fully paid homeowner's insurance policy, a termite inspection report, and various certifications which may be applicable to improved properties. Buyer should be prepared at the time of settlement to pay the settlement costs and the balance due under the Contract. Buyer must provide cash, wired funds, bank check or certified check for amounts to be paid at settlement. In some cases, Seller may be required to provide funds in excess of the sales proceeds in order for settlement to occur, in which event, Seller also should be prepared to make payment in an approved form. Any party uncertain of the amount required at settlement should make inquiry of the title company or settlement attorney prior to settlement. Buyer should establish gas, electric and water service in Buyer's name commencing the day of settlement.

**4. GROUND RENT:** If a Property is subject to an existing ground rent as provided in a lease recorded among the Land Records, or if a ground rent is to be created, Seller will make those disclosures required by law by an appropriate additional clause or addendum to the Contract.

**5. RENTAL:** If any portion of the Property is to be rented to tenants by Buyer, the local government may require that the Property be registered prior to any rental and a yearly registration fee may be assessed by the local government. You may call the appropriate government office for further information. If the Property is now or has been rented to tenants, local laws may give the tenants certain rights to purchase the Property. These rights are set forth in the Contract. Effective October 1, 1994, certain disclosures are required regarding the presence of lead paint in certain rental properties.

**6. EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY:** A REALTOR® is required by federal, state and local law, and the Code of Ethics of the National Association of REALTORS® to treat all parties in a non-discriminatory manner without regard to race, color, creed, age, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, familial status, physical or mental disability, occupation, sexual orientation or preference, or other protected classifications under Fair Housing Laws.

**7. HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATIONS/CONDOMINIUMS:** If a Property is part of a development subject to the imposition of mandatory fees as defined by the Maryland Homeowners Association Act, and/or a condominium unit, Seller will make the required disclosures by an appropriate addendum to the Contract.

**8. COVENANTS AND RESTRICTIONS AFFECTING PROPERTY:** A majority of homes, whether new or re-sale, located in a subdivision are subject to certain restrictions applicable to the use of the Property as well as the construction of certain improvements to the Property. Such restrictions are referred to as covenants and, in the case of Property subject to a Homeowners Association or Condominium Association, the covenants are contained in a Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions as well as the Bylaws of the Association. However, many properties are also subject to covenants even though the Property is not subject to a Homeowners Association or Condominium Association. Buyers are encouraged to inquire as to any covenants and restrictions which may be applicable to the Property which is being considered for purchase.

**9. PRIVATE AGREEMENTS:** Some communities may be subject to agreements, covenants or restrictions relating to the cost of certain maintenance items, restricting the use of properties or dealing with other matters. For example, properties sharing a driveway are often subject to such agreements. These private agreements do not fall within the required disclosures of HOA or condominium laws and may or may not be recorded. Buyer should make inquiries of Seller prior to or at the time of Contact.

**10. WETLANDS, WATERWAYS AND/OR FLOOD PLAINS:** Buyer is advised that, if all or a portion of the Property has wetlands and/or waterways or is located in a designated flood plain, the approval of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the "Corps"), the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and other federal, state or local agencies may be necessary before a building permit for either new construction or expansion or improvement of the Property can be issued. Additionally, the future use of existing improved property may be restricted due to the presence of waterways, wetlands, and/or flood plains. Information as to wetlands, waterways and/or flood plains can be obtained from the District Office of the Corps at (410) 962-3670, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources at 1-877-620-8DNR (8367) or the Office of Planning and Zoning of the county or city in which the Property is situated. The Buyer expressly assumes the risk that the Property may be subject to restrictions due to the presence of waterways, wetland, and/or flood designations.

**11. REFORESTATION:** (Note: Applicable to property containing 40,000 or more square feet of land.) Buyer is hereby advised that if Buyer intends to apply for subdivision or site plan approval or a grading or sediment control permit upon the Property, applicable City or County law may require as a condition of such approval that Buyer submit plans acceptable to the City/County for establishing new tree cover, planting trees to replace forest which has been recently removed, and conserving the cutting and clearing of trees in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

**12. CHESAPEAKE BAY CRITICAL AREA:** If all or a portion of a Property is located within 1,000 feet of tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay, there may be restrictions on the use and/or development of the Property. Additional information regarding the Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas is available from the Critical Areas Program established by the local government of each county in Maryland and Baltimore City.

**13. BWI AIRPORT NOTICE:** Some properties may be located in the Baltimore/Washington International Airport Noise Zone. A Buyer desiring to obtain a copy of Noise Zone Maps may do so by calling the Office of Noise, Real Estate and Land Use Compatibility at 410-859-7375 or email [maanoiseabatement@mdot.state.md.us](mailto:maanoiseabatement@mdot.state.md.us). Information regarding the location of other airports and their operations may be obtained by calling the local zoning office for the area in which the Property is located.

**14. INSURANCE:** Buyer acknowledges that, as a condition of making a mortgage loan, lenders may require proof of hazard insurance coverage and may also require flood insurance coverage.

**15. PROPERTY CONDITION (HOME INSPECTION):** If the appropriate contingency is included in the Contract, home inspection firms may be employed to inspect the condition of the Property, including central heating and cooling systems and components, plumbing and electrical systems and components, the roofing, exterior and interior walls, ceilings and floors, foundation and/or basement (including chronic water penetration). If the Property is part of a condominium, Buyer's rights include access to the common areas to perform the inspection.

**16. PRIVATE WATER AND SEWAGE SYSTEMS:** Many properties are serviced by wells and/or private water and/or sewage systems. Local laws or lenders may require various tests and/or inspections. If the Property is serviced by any such system, this should be addressed by a separate addendum to the Contract.

**17. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS; HAZARDOUS MATERIALS:** There are many hazardous materials that could affect a Property. The Brokers and their agents will generally have no knowledge of these hazardous materials and do not have the technical expertise to ascertain or advise you of the presence or significance of these hazardous materials. Buyer has the right to request, as a condition of an offer and, subject to acceptance by the Seller, the employment of a specialist of Buyer's choice to provide an analysis of hazardous materials which may be present. Hazardous materials inside the home can include, but are not limited to, cleaning chemicals, paint, asbestos, radon, lead paint, petroleum products, lawn and garden chemicals and indoor air pollutants that can accumulate. Hazardous materials outside the home can include, but are limited to, those found in contaminated land, water, landfills and other disposal sites, industrial air and water emissions, radiation from high tension wires, and those which may be present in underground storage tanks. Generally, additional information pertaining to these materials is available from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) at (410) 537-3000.

**18. FIRE-RETARDANT TREATED PLYWOOD:** The use of fire-retardant treated (FRT) plywood as roof sheathing may result in the loss of wood strength through thermal degradation. The extent of such degradation depends upon the particular fire-retardant treatment used as well as the temperature levels and the degree of moisture present in the roof and attic systems. Additional information regarding FRT plywood is available from the National Association of Homebuilders at (800) 368-5242. For information as to whether a Property was constructed with FRT plywood, Buyer may contact the local Department of Building Inspections and Permits and/or request that a home inspector determine the condition of FRT plywood if present.

**19. RADON:** The MDE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have found levels of naturally occurring radon in some areas of Maryland that exceed the levels considered acceptable by the EPA. Studies have shown that extended exposure to high levels of radon can adversely affect your health. Radon testing firms in the area have special equipment to detect elevated levels of radon on a Property. They can also recommend actions to be taken to decrease concentrations of radon to an acceptable level. Buyer is advised to contact the Center for Radiological Health at the MDE at (410) 537-3000 for further information on radon.

**20. LEAD PAINT:** The MDE has found that many homes built before 1978 contain lead paint, the ingestion of which can be particularly dangerous. The potential dangers of lead paint may be greatly exacerbated by repairs and renovations performed without the assistance of a qualified lead paint removal specialist. Buyer is advised to contact the Lead Paint Poisoning Prevention Division of the MDE at (410) 537-3000 for further information on lead paint. Specialists are available to determine if lead paint has been used in a Property. In some cases, lead paint inspection may be mandatory.

**21. ASBESTOS:** Asbestos has been used in residential property for insulation, fireproofing, acoustical, decorative and other purposes. Common uses of asbestos include insulation around boilers and pipes, surfacing material, ceiling and floor tiles, roofing material, wallboard, and cement pipe. Improper handling or removal of asbestos during renovations or repairs may damage the asbestos and cause asbestos particles to become airborne, potentially causing health risks. Buyer is advised to contact the MDE at (410) 537-3000 for further information on asbestos.

**22. AVAILABILITY OF LIMITED WARRANTY:** A Limited Warranty may be available for purchase through a Broker. Such a Limited Warranty may provide, subject to the terms and conditions of the Limited Warranty, compensation in the event certain named components and/or appliances become inoperable or fail during a specified period of time (usually one year from settlement).

**23. NEWLY CONSTRUCTED RESIDENCES:** a) New Home Warranty Plan: If a Property is a newly constructed dwelling, Maryland law requires that Seller/Builder provide Buyer with a written statement concerning the presence or absence of a New Home Warranty (addendum will be attached); b) Insulation: Seller/Builder must inform Buyer of the location, type and thickness (R Factor) of insulation used in the walls and roof of the newly constructed residence; c) Water/Sewer Service: a Property may be subject to a fee or assessment which purports to cover or defray the cost of installing or maintaining all or part of the public water or waste water facilities serving a subdivision. This fee or assessment may be payable annually. Seller will provide Buyer with a detailed written disclosure of the amount of the fee, the duration of the fee, and any right to prepay or discount the fee.

**24. CERTIFICATIONS:** Depending upon the type of mortgage applied for by Buyer, lenders may require certain certifications that relate to a Property or require inspections/appraisals that certify that a Property is free of specific hazards or conditions.

**25. FHA PREPAYMENT:** FHA regulations specify that if the loan is paid in full on the first day of a month, interest for that month is not payable, but if the loan is paid in full on any day other than the first day of a month, interest may be payable through the end of that month.

**26. NOTICES/FAX TRANSMISSIONS:** Unless otherwise provided herein or in another Addendum, any notice to Buyer shall be effective when delivered to Buyer or an agent of Buyer, and any notice to Seller shall be effective when delivered to Seller or an agent of Seller. Notices under the Contract shall be in writing, and may be hand-delivered, mailed or transmitted by an electronic medium which produces a tangible copy. An electronic copy of a signed offer, acceptance, addendum or notice shall be deemed the equivalent of the original document. While not required, it is suggested that documents with original manual signatures of the parties be forwarded to Buyer and Seller in accordance with the Contract.

_____	_____ (SEAL)
Date	Buyer(s)/Tenant(s)
_____	_____ (SEAL)
Date	Buyer(s)/Tenant(s)
_____	_____ (SEAL)
Date	Seller(s)/Owners(s)
_____	_____ (SEAL)
Date	Seller(s)/Owners(s)

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