# Equator for Short Sales: Guide for Agents\*

A self guided tour of our Equator system with tips on optimal use and a view into the Homeowners portal, positioning you to confidently assist your clients through the short sale process.



# Introduction

Welcome to Equator for Bank of America Short Sales. We are excited to bring this new platform to our short sale real estate partners and customers. Equator improves the process and enhances the experience for both customers and agents.

### Advantages of Equator:

- •24/7 access to the short sale system
- •Status tracking
- •Direct communication with the Short Sale Negotiator
- •Documents are uploaded directly to Equator instead of faxing
- •Streamlined approval process
- •Historical view of offers and counter offers

### Coming Soon in Equator:

•There are a few specific loan investor types (for example, FHA/VA) that are not on the Equator system and will be added at a later date

•Agent feedback, homeowner feedback, and internal data is being leveraged to identify system and/or process enhancements for future rollouts and educational material improvements

# Content

### The objectives of this guide:

- •Illustrate the traditional short sale process milestones
- •Due to the long timelines inherent to a short sale, we have included tips to help avoid delays in the process
- •Review the agent experience in the Equator system
- •Review the customer experience in the Equator system



### What is not included in this guide:

This document provides guidance on Bank of America's traditional short sale process and general education on how to utilize Equator. New programs, such as the Treasury Department's new Home Affordable Foreclosure Alternatives (HAFA) program and Bank of America's upcoming proprietary program referred to as Cooperative Short Sale, are not included. Additional education materials will be provided as these alternative programs are introduced.

# **Traditional Short Sale Process Milestones\***

\*Note that this is a high level overview for illustrative purposes only and does not show all required steps

|                   | Initiate   | Submit<br>Offer and<br>Documents   | Obtain<br>Home<br>Valuation  | Analyze<br>Offer and<br>Decision   | Closing   |
|-------------------|--|--|--|--|---|
| Homeowner         |  | Call Customer Service<br>to gain access to the<br>Homeowner portal:<br>1.866.880.1232<br>Key tasks:<br>•Contact Information<br>•Hardship Reasons<br>•Financial Information | Enable vendor to<br>schedule interior<br>Home Valuation                            |  |   |
| Agent             | <ul> <li>Agent must create<br/>Account at<br/><u>www.equator.com</u></li> <li>Initiate Short Sale directly<br/>through <u>www.equator.com</u></li> </ul> | Key tasks:<br>• Submit 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party<br>Authorization<br>• Submit Short Sale Offer<br>• Upload Offer Document<br>• Upload Supporting<br>Documents                  | Enable vendor to<br>schedule interior<br>Home Valuation                            | <ul> <li>Negotiate release of<br/>additional liens if not<br/>serviced by Bank of<br/>America</li> <li>Respond if offer needs to<br/>be negotiated</li> </ul>  | <ul> <li>Notify Bank of America of<br/>any post approval deal<br/>changes or closing delays</li> <li>Notify Bank of America<br/>within 72 hrs prior to<br/>Close</li> <li>Send Bank of America<br/>funds and documents</li> </ul> |
| Bank<br>Associate |  | <ul> <li>Key tasks:</li> <li>Review 3<sup>rd</sup> party<br/>authorization</li> <li>Validate Offer &amp;<br/>supporting documents</li> </ul>                               | <ul> <li>Order Home Valuation</li> <li>Order internal Pay Off<br/>Quote</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Analyze collected<br/>information and negotiate<br/>offer</li> <li>Submit offer to Mortgage<br/>Insurance and Investor as<br/>needed</li> <li>Receive approval, decline,<br/>or re-negotiation<br/>stipulations</li> <li>Notify agent and customer<br/>of decision</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Re-work the deal if any changes occur post approval</li> <li>Work with agent and title company to enable closing</li> </ul>  |

NOTE: The Equator system is used to provide both tasks and communications to the agent. Please ensure you login frequently to check for new tasks, status messages, counter offers, or specific questions from our associates.

# 10 Tips to avoid delays in processing time



The short sale process is complex and involves many different parties who must all agree to take a loss on an outstanding debt (for example, investors, additional lien holders, and mortgage insurance). This leads to a longer timeline than a traditional home sale. Here are some key factors that <u>you can influence</u> to help minimize delays:

- 1. Review all documents & document images for accuracy and clarity prior to upload
- 2. Ensure that property is listed on MLS
- 3. Negotiate external 3<sup>rd</sup> party fees prior to submission of HUD (for example, the following fees are typically <u>not approved by investors</u>: short sale negotiation, reconveyence, document preparation, notary, recording, courier, processing)
- 4. Supply the complete HUD-1 that is valid for <u>at least 60 days</u> and includes all fees
- 5. Ensure that customer and agent tasks are completed as timely as possible (for example, accepting short sale assignment, submitting short sale offer, and uploading offer documents must be done within 7 days)

### Continued on following page...

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# 10 Tips to avoid delays in processing time

- 6. Submit fully executed purchase offers with all appropriate addendums signed by both buyer and homeowner
- 7. Work to get a purchase offer representing the best possible fair market value and highest net proceeds for the investors
- 8. Set appropriate expectations with buyers and sellers so that they understand the complexity and resulting length of time a short sale can take
- 9. Work to get a release on outside liens as early as possible
- 10. The following situations will cause delays. Please notify us as soon as possible if they occur:
  - Change in buyer or agent at any time during the process
  - Customer files bankruptcy
  - Deal change after the approval letter is issued



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### **Agent Account Setup**





#### Initiate Short Sale

## Complete the steps below to initiate a Short Sale.



×

### Initiate Short Sale

# Complete the steps below to initiate a Short Sale.

| 1 Initiate Short Sale  | 2 Enter Loan Information  | 3 Review and Confirm                              | A Next Steps                    |  |  |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Enter Loan Information   |   |   |                                 |  |  |
| Enter the property's loan number, Bo<br>By continuing, you agree this Short S<br>representation in a possible Short Sa   | Arrower's last name as it appears on the<br>* Loan Number:<br>* Borrower Last Name:<br>* Reason for Default:<br>Sale submission is being done at the real<br>ale transaction. | ermortgage, and the Reason for Defa<br>employment | ower has requested you be their |  |  |
| Cancel   | Enter the loan inform<br>and then click Next S  | nation requested<br>Step.                         | Next Step                       |  |  |
| <b>NOTE:</b> By completing this submission process, you are requesting a Short Sale. Final determination of whether the property in question qualifies as a Short Sale is at the discretion of the Lender and/or Servicer. |   |   |                                 |  |  |

Initiate Short Sale

Complete the steps below to initiate a Short Sale.

![](_page_11_Picture_3.jpeg)

×

![](_page_12_Figure_0.jpeg)

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![](_page_13_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Figure_1.jpeg)

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![](_page_13_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Figure_1.jpeg)

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> The Due/Completed Date is color coded for easy status recognition.

> > A Internet

Green – task is on time Yellow – task is almost overdue Red – task is overdue

![](_page_15_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_15_Figure_1.jpeg)

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Click on the task to take you to the property view.

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### **Property View**

![](_page_16_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_17_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Property View** 

![](_page_19_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Offer Site** 

![](_page_20_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Figure_0.jpeg)

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# **Offer History**

| OFFER INFORMATION                 |                   |   |                             |        |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---|-----------------------------|--------|--|--|
| Data                              | 02.44.2040        | 02 42 2040  |                             |        |  |  |
| Identity                          | 03112010<br>BUVED | 03 12 2010<br>Sollor  |                             |        |  |  |
| Burehoos Amount (Enter First)     | 175000            | 175000  |                             |        |  |  |
| Furchase Amount (Enter First)     | 1/5000            | 1/5000  |                             |        |  |  |
| Earnest money Amount              | 1000              | 1000  |                             |        |  |  |
| Down Payment Percent              | This              | is the "view works  | sheet" page. It provides th |        |  |  |
| Down Payment Amount               |                   | This is the view worksheet page. It provides the  |                             |        |  |  |
| Loan Amount                       | histo             | history of all offers and counters.   |                             |        |  |  |
| Closing Date                      |                   |   |                             |        |  |  |
| Pest/Termite Inspection           |                   | _   |                             |        |  |  |
| Pest/Termite Repair (Sect. 1)     | Fees              | Fees are included, excluded, or reduced based on our knowledge of what the investors typically will |                             |        |  |  |
| Listing Date                      | know              |   |                             |        |  |  |
| Listing Amount                    | annr              | Note that the   | final deal must be approv   | und in |  |  |
| Cash Contribution - 1st Lien      | appit             |   | Inial deal must be approv   |        |  |  |
| Cash Contribution - 2nd Lien      | a late            | er stage.   |                             |        |  |  |
| Promissory Note Amount - 1st Lien |                   |   |                             |        |  |  |
| Promissory Note Amount - 2nd Lien | Our               | Our goal is to pagatista the deal to a point where we   |                             |        |  |  |
| Buyer Closing Cost Credit         |                   | Our goal is to negotiate the deal to a point where we   |                             |        |  |  |
| Settlement Fee                    | believ            | believe the investor will approve.  |                             |        |  |  |
| FHA/VA Allowable Costs            |                   |   |                             |        |  |  |
| Doc Prep                          | 100               |   |                             |        |  |  |
| Title Insurance                   | 1200              | 1200  |                             |        |  |  |
| Courier                           |                   |   |                             |        |  |  |
| Overnight Fee                     |                   |   |                             |        |  |  |
| Wire Fee                          | 50                |   |                             |        |  |  |
| Re convoyance Fee                 |                   |   |                             |        |  |  |

## **Counter Offers**

| Add Pho    | TYPE  | ENDER<br>TIATOR                      | ADDRESS<br>678 JTYOY I<br>LISTING | NXDXVY, ONTARIC<br>AGENT | 0, <u>CA 91764</u><br>LIST DT CLOSE D | T LIST PF  | STATUS<br>NEGOTIATION E                          | LENDER<br>BAC SHORT SALES<br>MESSAGES |
|------------|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|--|---------------------------------------|
|            |   | <u>ILTON</u><br>S <mark>0</mark> 0 0 | SHORT S/                          | OFFERS                   |                                       | \$180,00   | O.OO <u>View</u> =<br>Expenses <b>\$0 \$0 \$</b> | 0                                     |
| View All C | Offers on 678 JTY   |                                      | <u>VY</u> > Offer 1               |                          |                                       |            |  |                                       |
| Offer 1:   | + NEW   |                                      |                                   |                          |                                       |            |  |                                       |
| Source     |   | Farget                               |                                   | Selling Agent            | Buyer                                 | Offer Date | Expiration Date                                  | Offer Amt                             |
| S. SALE20  | 0 '   | G. NEGOTI                            | ATOR                              | S. SALE20                | B. Name                               | 03/11/10   | No Exp   | \$175,000.00                          |
| C. WHITFIE | ELD :   | S. SALE20                            | 1                                 | S. SALE20                | B. Name                               | 03/12/10   | No Exp   | \$175,000.00                          |
|            |   | Date                                 | 03 11 2010                        |                          | 03 12 2010                            |            | 03/16/2  | 010                                   |
|            |   | Identit y                            | BUYER                             | -                        | Seller                                |            | Buyer  |                                       |
| * Purc     | chase Amount (En  | ter First)                           | 175000                            |                          | 175000                                |            | OK   |                                       |
|            | * Earnest Money   | Amount                               | 1000                              |                          | 1000                                  |            | OK   |                                       |
|            | * Down Payment  | Percent                              | 10                                |                          | 10                                    |            | OK   |                                       |
|            | * Down Payment  | Amount                               | 17500                             |                          | 17500                                 |            | OK   |                                       |
| T          | his is the  | top s                                | ection of t                       | the "count               | ter offer" page                       | e. You     |  |                                       |
| w          | vill need to  | o sele                               | ect "OK" n                        | ext to eve               | rv fee that is I                      | beina      | OK   | 2                                     |
| n          | negotiated If you want to counter that fee you will click |                                      |                                   |                          |                                       |            |  |                                       |
| "          | "OK" and then about a the emount of the fee. Dealize      |                                      |                                   |                          |                                       |            |  |                                       |
|            |   | inen (                               | inange me                         |                          | Di line lee. Re                       | alize      |  |                                       |
| th         | hat any cr  | nange                                | es are subj                       | ect to add               | litional counte                       | er         |  |                                       |
| 0          | ffers and   | adds                                 | time to th                        | e process                | •                                     |            | OK   |                                       |
| Pe         | st/Termite Repair   | (Sect.1)                             |                                   |                          |                                       |            | OK   |                                       |
|            | * Lis   | ting Date                            | 02 02 2010                        |                          | 02 02 2010                            | 4          | OK 02/02/2                                       | 010                                   |
|            |   |                                      |                                   |                          |                                       |            |  |                                       |

## **Counter Offers**

| Other Expense Amount 1  |  |                             | OK            |              |
|---|--|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1st Lien Per Diem Amount  |  |                             | ОК            |              |
| 2nd Lien Per Diem Amount  |  |                             | ОК            |              |
| FHA/VA Allowable Costs  |  |                             | ок            |              |
| Other Expense Description 2   |  |                             | OK            |              |
| At the bottom of the "c   | ounter offer" page, if   | you have                    | OK            |              |
| options:  | ges to all fees you na   | ve three                    | OK            |              |
| <u>Agree:</u> You did not mak<br>in agreement with the o<br>This will move the file f | te any changes and th<br>counter offer from the<br>orward for investor a | nerefore are<br>negotiator. | <u>ок</u>     | 5            |
|   |  | pp. c. c                    | ок<br>ОК      |              |
| Send Offer: You have n  | nade changes to the r  | negotiator's                | ОК            |              |
| offer. This will go back<br>to additional counter of                                  | to the negotiator and fers.  | d is subject                | UK            |              |
|   |  |                             | Capture Image | Print Screen |
| Reject: This will close   | out the file completely  | . This                      |               |              |
| should only be used if  | the buyer does not wa  | ant to                      | ^             | ^            |
| proceed with the short  | sale.  |                             | Agree         | Send Offer   |
|   |  |                             | Reject        |              |

### Messaging

![](_page_25_Figure_1.jpeg)

Messaging

![](_page_26_Figure_1.jpeg)

# **Agent Communication within Equator**

- Throughout the process you will receive notifications of the status of the short sale. The system automatically tracks the agent, customer, and bank tasks and will alert you after key milestones have been achieved and to let you know the next steps.
- For specific questions/concerns you have, the negotiator assigned to the short sale is your primary contact.
  - Please ensure when sending a message in Equator you only select "Negotiator".
  - We request that you only send messages via Equator and not directly through email. This enables our associates to effectively manage the case load and respond to agent inquires in a timely manner.
- If you have submitted a request to the Negotiator via Equator <u>AND</u> there has been no response after <u>2 business days</u>:
  - you should escalate to a "Team Lead" by selecting this role in your message drop down menu.
- In the event of an <u>urgent issue</u>, such as, a foreclosure sale date within 48 hours:
  - you should immediately escalate to the "Team Lead" and "Manager"
  - and also call the Short Sale support team at 1-866-880-1232.

![](_page_28_Picture_0.jpeg)

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| 🚰 Bank of America   Short Sale   Borrower - Microsoft Inte                     | ernet Explorer  |
|--|---|
| Eile Edit Yiew Favorites Tools Help  |   |
| 🕁 Back 🚗 🕘 🕑 🟦 🧟 Search 🔛 Ravorites 餐  | Media 🌀 🛃 🗃 🗐 🚉   |
| Address www.bankofamerica.com/shortsale  | 🔽 🧬 Go 🛛 Links 🔁 🔹 🌀 SnagIt 🖆   |
| Bank of America 🧼  | This is the home page where the Homeowner le accesses Equator.                                    |
| Short Sale Processing  |   |
| Welcome to the Bank of America Short Sale processing                           | After calling Bank of America, a password will be emailed to the homeowner. They will enter their |
| Sign In  | email address and password then click Login.  |
| Email Address:<br>Password:<br>Login<br>For additional assistance<br>880-1232. | e (including resetting your password), please contact a short sale customer service representativ |
| Secure Area  |   |
|  |   |
| Cone   | Internet  |

| Bank of America 💜  |  | Short Sale sign off<br>Help   |
|--|--|---|
| Short Sale Processing  |  |   |
| Thank you for contacting Bank of America<br>Click on the below links to update all of the<br>Please know that any requested short sale   | concerning your short sale request.<br>necessary short sale information. These sections must be completed in the order that they are listed.<br>information that is not provided timely may impact the final decision of your request.     | Property Information<br>Borrower<br>YPDY KULXTTU                                    |
| Provide Initial Offer<br>Select Real Estate Agent<br>Provide Contact Information<br>Supply Hardship Reasons<br>Submit Financial Information  |  | Property Address<br>HOLLYWOOD, FL 33019<br>Borrower Status ?<br>Closing (Qualified) |
| Messages<br>No Messages to Display   | This is the Home page.<br>There are links on the left that access Homeowr  | ner tasks.  |
| This site will enable you to assist in servic<br>this short sale offer review. You will need<br>financial information. Once your agent is s<br>documents. The Bank of America Short Sa<br>An overview of the requested information<br>either clicking the "Help" link under the rele | Note that as the agent you have the ability to co<br>the Initial Offer and Select Real Estate Agent tas<br>your version of Equator. Agents <u>do not</u> have the<br>to complete the other tasks, which are the respo<br>of the Homeowner. | mplete<br>sks within<br>e ability<br>onsibility                                     |

![](_page_31_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Picture_0.jpeg)