	OFFICE OF DRINKING WATER AND MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE POLICY AND PROCEDURE	DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY						
Original Effective Date: February 26, 2010 Revised Date: Reformatted Date: January 9, 2013	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="505 222 1127 310"> Subject: Structures on Licensed Campsites </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="505 310 1127 422"> Program Name: ODWMA-Campground Program </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="505 422 906 491"> Number: ODWMA-368-125-002 </td> <td data-bbox="906 422 1127 491"> Page: 1 of 3 </td> </tr> </table>	Subject: Structures on Licensed Campsites		Program Name: ODWMA-Campground Program		Number: ODWMA-368-125-002	Page: 1 of 3	Category: <input type="checkbox"/> Internal/Administrative <input type="checkbox"/> External/Non-Interpretive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External/Interpretive
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A Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Policy and Procedure cannot establish regulatory requirements for parties outside of the DEQ. This document provides direction to DEQ staff regarding the implementation of rules and laws administered by the DEQ. It is merely explanatory; does not affect the rights of, or procedures and practices available to, the public; and does not have the force and effect of law.

INTRODUCTION, PURPOSE, OR ISSUE:

Many of Michigan's campgrounds have structures placed on licensed campsites such as sheds, decks, porches, or three season rooms in addition to the recreational unit as defined in Part 125, Campgrounds, Swimming Areas, and Swimmers' Itch, of the Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, as amended (Act 368), and the administrative rules adopted pursuant to Act 368. Confusion has existed as to the types of structures which may or may not be allowed to be placed on licensed campsites.

AUTHORITY:

The statutory provisions for campgrounds are contained in Act 368 and the administrative rules adopted pursuant to Act 368. The applicable section of the administrative rules is as follows:

R 325.1556 Sites; size and arrangement; identification and location; location of recreational units and other structures; permanent structures prohibited; construction verification; marking; drainage; occupancy.

Rule 6. (4) A campground owner shall locate recreational units or other structures, such as sheds and awnings, to provide an unobstructed path which is not less than 4 feet wide and which extends completely around the recreational unit. A campground owner shall ensure that a permanent structure requiring footings is not located on a campsite.

POLICY:

Structure(s) may be placed on a campground site when it is not over 400 square feet and when a footing is not required. The Michigan Residential Building Code (MRBC) defines when a footing is required for various types and sizes of structures. The local building authority or building inspector has the knowledge and authority to address questions under the MRBC and to make a decision on footing requirements for specific applications.

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For structures placed on campground sites before 2010, campground owners/operators will be requested to submit a list of sites that have a structure(s) and briefly indicate the type and size of structure(s). For example, Site 18 can be listed as 12 foot by 30 foot deck and 12 foot by 8 foot three-season room. It is not necessary to determine whether a footing is required for these structures. The list will be used as the baseline in determining future compliance issues. Sites that contain a permanent structure requiring footings placed before 2010 are to be considered a nonconforming use. It will not be required that these structures be removed until there is a change or transfer in ownership, the recreational unit is removed from the site, the structure is considered a safety hazard or nuisance, or the structure creates a violation of the required 4-foot wide unobstructed path completely around the unit.

For structures proposed on campground sites after 2009, the campground owner/operator is responsible for contacting the local building authority to determine if the proposed structure requires a footing. If footings are required, the structure cannot be placed on the site and must be removed if already in place. The campground owner should maintain a written log listing the date, name of the building official contacted, size and type of the proposed structure, and site number.

The MRBC does allow certain structures greater than 400 square feet in area but less than 600 square feet to be placed without a footing. In those cases where there is ample room on a campground site for such a structure, the campground owner/operator may submit a scaled plan of the site showing the RV, all structures including the proposed structure, stored items or area, parking area, and site improvements (such as fire pits) to the local health department for review and possible approval. The need for a plan review applies to proposed structures and not to existing structures placed prior to 2010.

Campground owners/operators may establish rules that prohibit all or certain types of structures on campground sites, as long as the owner/operator rules are more stringent than this policy or the Campground Act and Rules.

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**Summary Table
Adapted from MRBC Requirements
for Structures on Licensed Campsites**

Structure Type and Code Reference	Size	Footing Required	Building Permit Required	Comments for Compliance with Campground Act and Rules
Accessory structures - Sheds R 105.2	Less than 200 square feet	Not Required	Not Required	Allowed
Accessory structures - Sheds R 403.1.4.1 Exception 1	Greater than 201 square feet and less than 600 square feet	Not Required	Required	Allowed up to 400 square Feet. Waiver possible with plan review from local health department.
Accessory structures - Sheds R 403.1.4	Greater than 601 square feet	Required	Required	Not allowed on campground Sites
Deck, Porch, Three-Season Room, not attached to RV (free standing) R 403.1.4.1 Exception 3		Not Required	Required	Where the size exceeds 400 square feet, structures are not allowed. Waiver possible with plan review from local health department.
Stand alone structure such as cabana or occupyable spaces R 101.2		Required	Required	Not allowed on campground sites

OFFICE CHIEF APPROVAL:

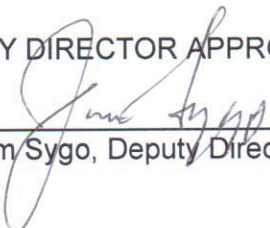


Liane J. Shekter Smith, P.E., Chief
Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance

1/7/2013

Date

DEPUTY DIRECTOR APPROVAL:



Jim Sygo, Deputy Director

1/9/2013

Date