STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT

LANSING

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TO: Campground Owners/Operators

FROM: Ben G. McGeachy, P.E., Chief
Campgrounds & Pools Unit
Groundwater Division
Environmental Protection Bureau

DATE: February 26, 2010

SUBJECT: Structures on Licensed Campground Sites

This correspondence is to provide information and to request your assistance in addressing the issue of structures on campground sites. In accordance with Rule 6 (4) of the administrative rules for campgrounds adopted pursuant to 1978 PA 368, as amended, "A campground owner shall ensure that a permanent structure requiring footings is not located on a campsite." Many of Michigan's campgrounds have structures placed on campsites such as sheds, decks, porches, or three-season rooms in addition to the recreational unit, as defined in the act and rules. There has been some confusion as to whether such structures violate this rule and what action will be taken if they are a violation.

Simply stated, a 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 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 this code and to make a decision on footing requirements for specific applications.

- For structures placed on campground sites **BEFORE 2010**, the assistance of campground owners/operators is required. Please 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.* You do not need to determine whether a footing is required for these structures. Your list will be used as the baseline in determining future compliance issues.

  If you have sites that contain a permanent structure requiring footings, it will be considered a nonconforming use and will not be required to 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.

Please return your complete listing of sites with structures to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Campgrounds & Pools Unit, P.O. Box 30273, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7773, by September 30, 2010.

- 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.** It is suggested you maintain a written log listing the date, name of the building official you contacted, the size and type of the proposed structure, and site number.

- The Michigan Residential Building Code 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 <u>proposed</u> structures and not to existing structures placed prior to 2010.**

As a final note, 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 document or the Campground Act and Rules, 1978 PA 368, as amended. Please contact the Campgrounds & Pools Unit, DNRE, at 517-241-1351, if you have any questions.

Summary Table
Adapted from Michigan Residential Code Requirements
For Structures on Campground Sites

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
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

ec: Local Health Department, Environmental Health Directors
Mr. John Tisdale, Building Division, DELEG
Mr. Wayne Purchase, ARVC Michigan
Mr. William Sheffer, MARVAC
Ms. Brenda Curtis, DNRE
Mr. Harold Herta, DNRE