SEPTIC SYSTEM SIZING WORKGROUP PROJECT UPDATE

REPORT TO THE FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION

JUNE 8, 2010

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

FACILITATION, MEETING AND PROCESS DESIGN BY

REPORT BY JEFF A. BLAIR
FCRC CONSENSUS CENTER
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

jblair@fsu.edu
http://consensus.fsu.edu

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OVERVIEW
Chairman Rodriguez announced that the Commission is convening a facilitated joint workgroup process with the Florida Department of Health (DOH) to develop recommendations regarding requirements for the sizing of septic systems. The purpose of the Workgroup is to develop recommendations regarding an acceptable definition of "Bedrooms" used for the sizing of septic systems. The definition should work from the Florida Building Code (FBC) and Department of Health (DOH) perspectives. The Workgroup name was changed from the Universal Bedroom Definition to the Septic System Sizing Workgroup to better reflect the scope of the Workgroup since the Workgroup's recommendations focus on a strategy for sizing septic systems.

MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATION
Raul L. Rodriguez, AIA, Chair of the Florida Building Commission, has made the following appointments to the Universal Bedroom Definition Workgroup. Members are charged with representing their stakeholder group's interests, and working with other interest groups to develop consensus package(s) of recommendations for submittal to the Commission.

Commission Appointments	Health Department Appointments
Dick Browdy	Ed Barranco
Matt Carlton	Antony Gaudio
Joe Crum	Roxanne Groover
Dale Greiner	Robert Harper
Jim Goodloe	Mark Lander
Jim Schock	Jim Love
Randy Vann	Jim Schivinski
	Ed Williams

Workgroup's Consensus Draft Recommendations Regarding Sizing of Septic Systems
The Workgroup voted unanimously, 10 - 0 in favor, to recommend in concept the following strategy for sizing septic systems:
- Use census definition of rooms for calculating system sizes,
- All rooms that meet the "Room" definition are counted as a room,
- Use 70 square feet as minimum room size, and
- Use a conversion factor of 50 gallons per day/room for sizing septic systems.

Workgroup's Option 1*:
Bedroom: Minimum 70 sq ft, closet, means of escape and rescue to the outside, door, and must be conditioned space (code requires heating for conditioned space).
*This option was not supported by the Workgroup.

PROJECT UPDATE

Following is an update on the status of the Bedroom Definition issue as it moves through the Department of Health's Technical Review and Advisory Panel (TRAP) and Variance Review and Advisory Committee (VRAC) process provide by Ed Barranco, Florida Department of Health.

TRAP Meeting - August 15, 2009

At the TRAP meeting of August 2009, the Department presented results from a survey conducted to test and evaluate the previously proposed "room" sizing methodology, which estimates sewage flows using rooms and not bedrooms. The meeting ended without panel consensus on the proposed "room" methodology. The panel tabled the issue pending further consideration and on September 29th, 2009, the minutes of the August meeting were forwarded to your attention by Mr. Robert Harper, TRAP Chair.

TRAP Meeting - January 28, 2010

The TRAP next met on January 28th, 2010. The Department provided a new proposal replacing the "room" sizing methodology with a bedroom definition similar to the Universal Bedroom Definition Working Group's Option # 1.

(11) Bedroom – Any room which has an area of 60 square feet or more; has a recess with a minimum inside depth of 22 inches; has doors on its entrances; has an emergency escape and rescue opening; and can be expected to provide sleeping accommodation. Portions of rooms with ceiling heights less than 7.5 feet are not included in the calculation of the area of the room.

In addition to the bedroom definition language, to address system sizing of large homes, the department proposed changes to Table I, Chapter 64E-6, F.A.C. (Estimated Sewage Flows for System Design), to flatten out the curve of gallons per day (GPD) for larger homes by reducing the gallons per day for each additional bedroom after 4 bedrooms or each additional 750 square feet of building area or fraction thereof, from 100 to 60 per dwelling unit (see Table I excerpt below). The panel motioned to adopt the lower flow rates for lager homes, provided comments and tabled the bedroom definition proposal.

To date, the lower flow rates for larger homes issue has been reviewed by the VRAC and returned to the TRAP with comments. The issue will be re-heard at the next TRAP meeting scheduled for July 15, 2010. The lower flow rates for larger homes issue will be ready for rule making if approved by TRAP the their next meeting.

TABLE I For System Design ESTIMATED SEWAGE FLOWS		
TYPE OF	GALLONS	
ESTABLISHMENT	PER DAY	
RESIDENTIAL:		
Residences		
(a) Single or multiple family per dwelling		
Unit		
1 Bedroom with 750 sq. ft. or less of building area……………………………………	100	
2 Bedrooms with 751-1200 sq. ft. of building area………………………………………	200	
3 Bedrooms with 1201-2250 sq. ft. of building area………………………………………	300	
4 Bedrooms with 2251-3300 sq. ft. of building area……………………………………	400	
For each additional bedroom or each additional 750 square feet of building area or fraction thereof in a dwelling unit, system sizing shall be increased by 60 gallons per dwelling unit.		
(b) Other per occupant…………………………………………………………………………	50	

TRAP Meeting - July 15, 2010   In addition to the lower flow rates for larger homes, the bedroom definition issue will also be heard at the July 15th, 2010 TRAP meeting. Below is the proposed definition the Department will be presenting.   (11) Bedroom –Any room which has a recess with a minimum inside depth of 22 inches; has doors on its entrances; has an emergency escape and rescue opening; and can be expected to provide sleeping accommodation.a room designed primarily for sleeping or a room which is expected to routinely provide sleeping accommodations for occupants.