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Continuing Education Course #346
Tiny Houses Part 1
Planning and Design Considerations, Legality, and the Engineer's Role

1. Currently there are cities in the United States with laws mandating minimum house size.
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. According to the course text, what is the biggest difference between THOW and RVs?
 - a. How owners use them
 - b. The cost
 - c. Where they are parked
 - d. The materials used
3. What consulting opportunities in the tiny house industry exist for engineers?
 - a. Structural engineering
 - b. Photovoltaic system design
 - c. Site development
 - d. All of the above
4. What uncommon feature does the author recommend showing on THOW framing plans?
 - a. Sheathing joints
 - b. The location of every wall stud
 - c. Jack stud nailing patterns
 - d. Sheathing orientation
5. What are the two alternatives recommended by the course as possible solutions when a proposed tiny house is smaller than allowed by municipal codes or zoning codes?
 - a. 1) Build the house and then try to get it "grandfathered" 2) Pursue a variance
 - b. 1) Try and get the code language changed 2) Determine if the tiny house can qualify as an accessory dwelling unit
 - c. 1) Pursue a variance 2) Determine if the tiny house can qualify as an accessory dwelling unit
 - d. 1) File a lawsuit claiming the restrictions are unconstitutional 2) Try and get the code language changed
6. Which of the following was given as an example of a city or county that has recently changed their minimum square footage requirements to allow both THOF and THOW?
 - a. Lake Dallas, TX
 - b. Portland, OR
 - c. Rockledge, FL
 - d. Sonoma County
7. Which of the following reasons is not given as a reason some THOW builders become Recreation Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA) certified manufacturers?
 - a. It makes it simple to legally live in the THOW full-time
 - b. Buyers are able to get financing easier

- c. DMV registration is simplified
- d. It makes getting insurance easier

8. Most states in the U.S. say Park Models _____ RVs that must be _____ square feet or less and not exceed _____ feet in width.

- a. are, 300, 12
- b. are not, 300, 12
- c. are, 400, 14
- d. are not, 400, 14

9. The 2015 and 2018 International Residential Codes say every dwelling unit must have at least one habitable room of what size?

- a. 70 square feet
- b. 90 square feet
- c. 120 square feet
- d. 140 square feet

10. If a municipality adopts the 2018 International Residential Code (IRC) it must also adopt 2018 IRC Appendix Q at the same time.

- a. True
- b. False

11. 2018 IRC Appendix Q requires tiny house lofts to be at least _____ square feet in area.

- a. 0, (no minimum is given)
- b. 25
- c. 35
- d. 70

12. Appendix Q only applies to THOF, not THOW. How do the authors of Appendix Q believe it will also help THOW owners?

- a. It may make financing easier to obtain since THOW can now be built to a single standard.
- b. It may make insurance less costly and easier to get since THOW can now be built to a single standard.
- c. A THOW could be built to meet IRC and Appendix Q requirements. At a later time, it could be put onto a permanent foundation and receive a certificate of occupancy (CO) for year-round living.
- d. Most code officials don't know it only applies to THOF. As a result, they may approve a building permit and issue a CO for a THOW.

13. Most THOW builders choose to build to either the IRC or RVIA standards. This is because the *Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards* require _____, _____, and _____.

- a. minimum ceiling heights of 8 feet, multiple room size minimums, load testing of structural assemblies
- b. minimum ceiling heights of 7 feet, multiple room size minimums, load testing of structural assemblies
- c. minimum ceiling heights of 8 feet, a fire suppression system, load testing of structural assemblies
- d. minimum ceiling heights of 7 feet, a fire suppression system, load testing of structural assemblies

14. What is the reason most THOW are a maximum of 8 feet 6 inches wide and 13 feet 6 inches tall?

- a. The 8 feet 6 inch width comes from the standard flatbed trailer width and the 13 feet 6 inch height is due to minimum electric and telephone wire installation practices.
- b. Because all 50 states consider anything wider or taller an oversized load. Oversized loads require permitting prior to transport.
- c. Because the most restrictive state laws/regulations consider anything wider or taller an oversized load. Oversized loads require permitting prior to transport.
- d. The origin of these dimensions is unknown. Someone started using these dimensions and other builders just copied them.

15. What is not a common characteristic of trailers specifically designed for THOW construction?
- a. Pre-drilled holes in the trailer for attaching the wall and floor systems
 - b. Larger perimeter and smaller interior structural members compared to flatbed trailers
 - c. Wider trailer width and lighter overall weight compared to flatbed trailers
 - d. Built-in entry door steps like RVs
16. What is the major advantage of using two-way appliances?
- a. They can run on more than one fuel source
 - b. They are very inexpensive
 - c. They can be turned on two different ways (using the internet or the old fashioned by-hand way)
 - d. They do the work of more than one appliance
17. Which appliance has the most different common energy source options?
- a. Refrigerator
 - b. Range
 - c. Tankless water heater
 - d. Tanked water heater
18. Which of the following electrical service sizes would **NOT** be typical for a RV park?
- a. A 30 amp service
 - b. A 50 amp service
 - c. Both a 30 and 50 amp service
 - d. A 100 amp service
19. What is the reason for requiring a stairway landing platform?
- a. It reduces the footprint of loft stairs
 - b. It makes transitioning between the stairs and loft easier
 - c. It provide a place to attach the newel post for the handrail
 - d. It provides a place to rest while climbing similar to stair and ramp landings required by the Americans with Disabilities Act
20. The course material suggests a trailer no shorter than ____ feet long for a THOW with two lofts, one of which is accessed by stairs.
- a. 16
 - b. 18
 - c. 20
 - d. 22
21. What recommendation was not given as a way to make a space feel bigger?
- a. Install lots of windows to increase sunlight into the space
 - b. Stack large appliances
 - c. Create sightlines across the structure
 - d. Paint or use light interior colors
22. According to the course text, what are the three biggest challenges with lofts?
- a. Headroom, sufficient light, and ingress and egress
 - b. Headroom, sufficient light, and emergency escape
 - c. Headroom, emergency escape, and ventilation
 - d. Headroom, emergency escape, and ingress and egress
23. According to IRC R310.2.2 and the course text, what is the maximum sill height above the floor for a window used as an emergency escape and rescue opening?

- a. 36 inches
- b. 40 inches
- c. 44 inches
- d. 48 inches

24. IRC Appendix Q allows one means of egress from a loft 150 square feet in size that the 2018 IRC main text body does not. What is that additional means of egress?

- a. Regular ladders
- b. Rope ladders
- c. Climbing ropes
- d. Fire poles

25. IRC Appendix Q requires a minimum horizontal floor dimension of ____ feet.

- a. 4
- b. 5
- c. 6
- d. 8.5

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