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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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