

Open Industry Webinar: Questions and Answers

May 10, 2016

1. Is there any way that HUD can regionalize accepted foundations or HUD-code homes so that each dealer doesn't have to do it individually?

No. HUD does not plan to regionalize accepted alternate foundation systems. Retailers will need to contact manufacturers to obtain foundation plan designs and DAPIA acceptance of those designs. Contact us if you have questions about this process. If needed, we can also work with engineers to ensure the understanding of specific requirements during the design process.

2. Why weren't forms available long before the implementation and why weren't builders involved in drafting the regulations?

The regulations were issued in 2008 and have been in effect and available since 2009. To implement the program, HUD has been holding conference calls and circulating information for over a year.

We encourage all involved to get on our email distribution list. No industry-wide contact list has existed until now, which is a great benefit of this program. An email list gives us the ability to alert professionals whenever there's a change, update or concern within the industry.

3. You indicated that the frost-protected foundation design needs to be designed and stamped by an engineer or architect and approved by the DAPIA and manufacturer. Do I understand correctly that you are reviewing those and making sure they meet the requirements? Are you looking to have HUD-approved systems?

We are not looking to have HUD-approved systems. This process is simply to provide guidance regarding HUD's Model Installation Standards and requirements for alternative foundations in climates subject to freezing.

4. If a manufacturer has verbiage in their installation manual that allows for alternative foundations (such as an insulated foundation or a floating monolithic slab) and it's designed by a licensed architect or engineer, would it require a DAPIA approval since it is included in the manual?

Yes Everything in the manufacturer's installation manual requires DAPIA approved. If only a reference is provided in the manual that allows for an alternate foundation to be utilized, the actual foundation design will need to be prepared by a Professional Engineer, accepted by the manufacturer, and approved by the DAPIA before it can be utilized by an installer. Over time, we will be reviewing installation manuals to make sure they meet the standards.

5. Is there a pier and block hold-down foundation acceptable with HUD in freezing environments?

A finalized answer will be provided. As a preliminary answer, if you have non-frost susceptible soil then you should be able to use pads (the standards do not currently make provisions for a gravel only set) or set it on gravel.

6. What should be done if a customer with a single-wide slab wants to upgrade to a double? Is there a situation in which we could use the existing slab or do we always need to replace it?

In this case, a registered engineer or licensed architect would need to draft a unique design and have it approved by the DAPIA and manufacturer in order to use the existing slab.