



Community Development Department
11 English Street
Petaluma, CA 94952
<http://cityofpetaluma.org>

Building Division
Phone: (707) 778-4301
To schedule inspections: (707) 778-4479
Email: building@cityofpetaluma.org

Online Permit Portal Link: <https://petalumaca-energovweb.tylerhost.net/apps/SelfService#/home>

Sea/Land (Containers) Cargo Boxes Used as Storage Buildings

Proposed storage and utility building(s) shall comply with the requirements and restrictions of Group U Occupancy. Sea/Land Cargo Boxes may be used as storage buildings if the following requirements are met:

1. Upload a permit application in the online portal - <https://petalumaca-energovweb.tylerhost.net/apps/SelfService>
2. Provide plot/site plan showing the following:
 - a. Proposed location of project (hash mark area)
 - b. Show locations of any existing building
 - c. Dimension distance of storage building to property lines and to existing building
 - d. Provide North arrow
 - e. Provide scale
 - f. Show location and dimension of any easements
 - g. Provide project address and wet signature of person responsible for plot/site plan
3. All storage buildings having a roof area of 120 square feet or more require a building permit
4. Contact the City of Petaluma Planning Department at (707) 778-4470 for their requirements
5. Storage buildings must be located a minimum distance of 3 feet from all property lines. Note that the Planning Department may have more restrictive requirements
6. If more than one sea/land cargo box is to be installed, it must be a minimum of 6 feet from another sea/land cargo box (storage building) or, if closer than 6 feet, the total combined square footage of the storage buildings must be less than 400 square feet
7. A sea/land cargo box to be used as a storage building is limited to a one-story (single unit). Note that units cannot be mounted on top of each other to create two-story units
8. A tie-down system for lateral forces shall be designed and detailed by a licensed Civil or Structural Engineer, or by a Licensed Architect. Tie-down system must be designed for 110mph located in Seismic Zone D or E.
9. Any structural alterations to the sea/land cargo box shall be designed and detailed by a licensed Engineer or licensed Architect
10. Each sea/land cargo box shall have a code-complying exit door having a minimum size of 3'0" x 6'8". This exit door shall be "operable" from the inside without the use of a key tool, special knowledge or effort
11. The container shall be verified by the Field Inspector to be in good condition, free of severe rust or rot, and shall be weather resistive and weather tight
12. Electrical service is allowed in the storage building, but is limited to a single switched light and a GFCI electrical receptacle
13. Provide natural ventilation to storage container. Provide screen vents at floor level and located in the roof. Provide a minimum of 2 square feet of upper and lower ventilation. Vents at floor level must provide cross-

ventilation. If flammable liquid or highly combustible material is stored, contact the Fire Department for specific requirements

14. If the container has a combustible floor, it cannot be used to store a motor vehicle
15. Any container to be placed within the FEMA 100-Year Floodplain is subject to the requirements of the City of Petaluma Zoning Ordinance – please contact the Planning Department at (707) 778-4470 for guidelines.
16. Contact the City of Petaluma Bureau of Fire Prevention Office at (707) 778-4389 for Fire Department requirements

This is a comprehensive, but not complete, list of items to be shown on plans; some of these items may not be applicable to your particular situation. All other code compliance items will be reviewed at time of plan check and during inspections by the Field Inspectors.

Please note that our normal first review plan check turn around time is 15 business days. As we are closed on Fridays, those days are not included in the plan review calculation. Incomplete submittals will not be accepted. Plan check fees are due at the time of submittal.