

Florida Building Code 8th Edition (2023) Formal Interpretation #4

Date: March 18, 2024

Effective Date: March 19, 2024

Amended:

To: All Staff

From: Frederic Clum, Chief Building Official

Subject: Florida Building Code Chapter 3, Section 301.1 & 312.1 Use and Occupancy
Utility and Miscellaneous Group U (sheds & accessory buildings)

Per the Florida Building Code - 8th Edition (2023), Chapter 3 Section 301.1 states:

The provisions of this chapter shall control the classification of all buildings and structures as to occupancy and use. Different classifications of occupancy and use represent varying levels of hazard and risk to building occupants and adjacent properties.

Per Florida Building Code 8th - Edition (2023), Chapter 3 Section 312.1 states:

Buildings and structures of an accessory character and miscellaneous structures **not classified in any specific occupancy** shall be constructed, equipped, and maintained to conform to the requirements of this code commensurate with the fire and life hazard incidental to their occupancy. Group U **shall** include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Agricultural buildings
- Aircraft hangars, accessory to a one- or two-family residence (see [Section 412.4](#))
- Barns
- Carports
- Communication equipment structures with a *gross floor area* of less than 1,500 square feet (139 m²)
- Fences more than 6 feet in height
- Grain silos, accessory to a residential occupancy
- Livestock shelters
- *Private garages*
- Retaining walls
- **Sheds**
- Stables
- Tanks
- Towers



Per Florida Building Code –

Intent: The purpose of this code is to establish the minimum requirements to provide a reasonable level of safety, public health, and general welfare through structural strength, means of egress facilities, stability, sanitation, adequate light and ventilation, energy conservation, and safety to life and property from fire and other hazards attributed to the environment and to provide a reasonable level of safety to fire fighters and emergency responders during emergency operations.

As such buildings and structures of an accessory character per FBC Chapter 3 Section 312.1 Group U are not intended to be habitable or occupiable.

Fred Clum
Chief Building Official

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