

# TINY HOUSE STANDARDS

## CHAPTER PART AV101 GENERAL

### AV101.1 Scope.

This appendix shall be applicable to tiny houses used as single dwelling units.

Tiny houses shall comply with this code (*IRC 2018*) except as otherwise stated in this appendix.

## CHAPTER PART AV102 DEFINITIONS

### AV102.1 General.

The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this appendix, have the meanings shown herein.

Refer to Chapter 2 of this code (*IRC 2018*) for general definitions.

**EGRESS ROOF ACCESS WINDOW.** A skylight or roof window designed and installed to satisfy the emergency escape and rescue opening requirements in Section R310.2.

**LANDING PLATFORM.** A landing provided as the top step of a stairway accessing a loft.

**LOFT.** A floor level located more than 30 inches (*762 mm*) above the main floor and open to it on at least one side with a ceiling height of less than 6 feet 8 inches (*2032 mm*), used as a living or sleeping space.

**TINY HOUSE.** A dwelling that is 400 square feet (*37 m*) or less in floor area excluding lofts.

## CHAPTER PART AV103 CEILING HEIGHT

### AV103.1 Minimum ceiling height.

Habitable space and hallways in tiny houses shall have a ceiling height of not less than 6 feet 8 inches (*2032 mm*). Bathrooms, toilet rooms, and kitchens shall have a ceiling height of not less than 6 feet 4 inches (*1930 mm*). Obstructions shall not extend below these minimum ceiling heights including beams, girders, ducts, lighting and other obstructions.

**Exception:** Ceiling heights in lofts are permitted to be less than 6 feet 8 inches (*2032 mm*).

## CHAPTER PART AV104 LOFTS

### AV104.1 Minimum loft area and dimensions.

Lofts used as a sleeping or living space shall meet the minimum area and dimension requirements of Sections AV104.1.1 through AV104.1.3.

#### AV104.1.1 Minimum area.

Lofts shall have a floor area of not less than 35 square feet (*3.25 m*).

#### AV104.1.2 Minimum dimensions.

Lofts shall be not less than 5 feet (*1524 mm*) in any horizontal dimension.

#### AV104.1.3 Height effect on loft area.

Portions of a loft with a sloping ceiling measuring less than 3 feet (*914 mm*) from the finished floor to the finished ceiling shall not be considered as contributing to the minimum required area for the loft.

**Exception:** Under gable roofs with a minimum slope of 6:12, portions of a loft with a sloping ceiling measuring less than 16 inches (*406 mm*) from the finished floor to the finished ceiling shall not be considered as contributing to the minimum required area for the loft.

### AV104.2 Loft access.

The access to and primary egress from lofts shall be any type described in Sections AV104.2.1 through AV104.2.4.

#### AV104.2.1 Stairways.

Stairways accessing lofts shall comply with this code or with Sections AV104.2.1.1 through AV104.2.1.5.

**AV104.2.1.1 Width.**

Stairways accessing a loft shall not be less than 17 inches (432 mm) in clear width at or above the handrail. The minimum width below the handrail shall be not less than 20 inches (508 mm).

**AV104.2.1.2 Headroom.** The headroom in stairways accessing a loft shall be not less than 6 feet 2 inches (1880 mm), as measured vertically, from a sloped line connecting the tread or landing platform nosing's in the middle of their width.

**AV104.2.1.3 Treads and risers.**

Risers for stairs accessing a loft shall be not less than 7 inches (178 mm) and not more than 12 inches (305 mm) in height. Tread depth and riser height shall be calculated in accordance with one of the following formulas:

1. The tread depth shall be 20 inches (508 mm) minus 4/3 of the riser height, or
2. The riser height shall be 15 inches (381 mm) minus 3/4 of the tread depth.

**AV104.2.1.4 Landing platforms.**

The top tread and riser of stairways accessing lofts shall be constructed as a landing platform where the loft ceiling height is less than 6 feet 2 inches (1880 mm) where the stairway meets the loft. The landing platform shall be 18 inches to 22 inches (457 to 559 mm) in depth measured from the nosing of the landing platform to the edge of the loft, and 16 to 18 inches (406 to 457 mm) in height measured from the landing platform to the loft floor.

**AV104.2.1.5 Handrails.**

Handrails shall comply with Section R311.7.8.

**AV104.2.1.6 Stairway guards.**

Guards at open sides of stairways shall comply with Section R312.1.

**AV104.2.2 Ladders.**

Ladders accessing lofts shall comply with Sections AV104.2.1 and AV104.2.2.

**AV104.2.2.1 Size and capacity.**

Ladders accessing lofts shall have a rung width of not less than 12 inches (305 mm) and 10 inches (254 mm) to 14 inches (356 mm) spacing between rungs. Ladders shall be capable of supporting a 200 pound (75 kg) load on any rung. Rung spacing shall be uniform within 3/8-inch (9.5 mm).

**AV104.2.2.2 Incline.**

Ladders shall be installed at 70 to 80 degrees from horizontal.

**AV104.2.3 Alternating tread devices.**

Alternating tread devices accessing lofts shall comply with Sections R311.7.11.1 and R311.7.11.2. The clear width at and below the handrails shall be not less than 20 inches (508 mm).

**AV104.2.4 Ships ladders.**

Ships ladders accessing lofts shall comply with Sections R311.7.12.1 and R311.7.12.2. The clear width at and below handrails shall be not less than 20 inches (508 mm).

**AV104.2.5 Loft Guards.**

Loft guards shall be located along the open side of lofts.

Loft guards shall not be less than 36 inches (914 mm) in height or one-half of the clear height to the ceiling, whichever is less.

**CHAPTER PART AV105 EMERGENCY ESCAPE AND RESCUE OPENINGS****AV105.1 General.**

Tiny houses shall meet the requirements of Section R310 for emergency escape and rescue openings. Exception: Egress roof access windows in lofts used as sleeping rooms shall be deemed to meet the requirements of Section R310 where installed such that the bottom of the opening is not more than 44 inches (1118 mm) above the loft floor, provided the egress roof access window complies with the minimum opening area requirements of Section R310.2.1.



A tiny house may:

- consist of a structure built on a frame with wheels allowing it to be relocated when desired.
- contain provisions for a sink, toilet, and a shower.
- include cooking and heating equipment.
- be configured to use solar, or electrical utility power.



A tiny house may:

- consist of a structure built with a traditional framing system.
- or may not contain provisions for a sink, toilet, and or a shower.
- or may not include cooking and heating equipment.
- or may not be configured to use solar, or electrical utility power.

A tiny house shall have:

- provisions to dispose of wastewater that comply with the State of Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules enforced by the Department of Health Engineering when water supply is provided.