

**TO: MHI Manufactured Housing Division
Technical Activities Committee**

**SUBJECT: HUD approval of generic hinged-roof AC Letter – allowing
installations without requiring AC Letter inspections**

Date: Jan. 27, 2009

After much work by MHI and manufacturer members, HUD has formally approved a generic AC Letter for certain hinged-roof/ridge-box assemblies that if followed, will not require costly field inspections. In addition, this generic AC Letter is intended to serve as a template for use by all manufacturers which will streamline the administrative process for manufacturers choosing to construct homes using these roof assemblies.

While the approved letter is limited, it does cover most hinged-roof/ridge-box assemblies in common use. This a significant “win” for industry and for manufactured home buyers saving both very significant construction and installation costs.

HUD announced their approval late today.

This achievement is the product of several meetings with HUD and their program staff over the past several months to first secure HUD’s agreement to consider such an approval – which is the first of it’s kind – and secondly secure their cooperation in working with MHI and our members to develop specifications for this purpose.

Special thanks is owed to Kevin Clayton and Mark Ezzo of Clayton Homes who prepared the AC Letter application, and Joe Stegmayer and Manual Santana of Cavco Homes, Bill Stamer, Dave Keller and Daniel McMurtrie of Champion Homes, Bill Farrish of Fleetwood Homes, Bert Kessler of Palm Harbor Homes, Michael Wade of Cavalier Homes, Mike Zieman of RADCO, Inc., and others who all helped spearhead this effort and prepare the AC submission.

A copy of the generic AC Letter is attached.

As you know these requirements were imposed by HUD through their issuance of directives in 2007 and without vetting them through the MHCC. In response since that time we have had two primary objectives: 1) confront HUD’s issuance of the directives without vetting them through the MHCC and prevent such actions in the future; and, 2) secure HUD’s reconsideration of the requirements for the majority of hinged-roof/ridge-box assemblies commonly used.

By way of review regarding objective 1), as reported at our September Annual Meeting in Atlanta, HUD has also agreed to give greater scrutiny to determining what directives/interpretations must be or should be vetted through the MHCC before they are issued. This is the result of several senior level meetings and series of formal correspondence involving MHI & HUD and our respective legal counsel in late 2007 and much of 2008.

While there is still much work to be done regarding AC Letters and on-site completion (among many other issues), both of these achievements represent significant steps forward for industry.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Jeff

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