

Mendocino County Division of Environmental Health

Policy 4200.04

BEDROOM DEFINITION

Intent and Benefit

This policy definition is intended to size the on-site sewage system to the actual carrying capacity of the residence regardless of how any particular resident might be utilizing the structure at any given point in time. This definition will provide a common language for the discussion of residential structure size as it relates to the adequacy of the on-site sewage system.

Background Information

Various informal definitions of a bedroom have been used in the past. This has led to confusion and a lack of consistency among staff. The building department does not have a definition for a bedroom and thus the policy is necessary for purposes of sizing on-site sewage systems. An objective definition of room utilization is needed to adequately size the on-site sewage system for the possible maximum use of the residence.

Statement of Problem

An applicant may utilize rooms in a residence in one particular way. And the next resident may more fully utilize rooms to their maximum potential. If on-site sewage systems are sized according to the subjective and perhaps minimal use of the first resident, then the sewage system is at risk of being undersized for the full maximum use that any subsequent owner could legitimately make of the residence.

Details of Policy Procedures

A bedroom, for purposes of sizing on-site sewage systems, shall be defined as: any room designated by applicant as a "bedroom"; other rooms, such as sewing rooms, dens, offices, studios, lofts, game rooms, etc. may also be considered as bedrooms.

Rooms having one or more of the following features may not be considered by the Health Officer to constitute a bedroom:

1. A large (6-8 feet opening) arched doorway without a door which opens onto the entryway or a main activity area.
2. Use of a half wall or railing along at least one side of the room.
3. A conversation pit which interrupts the floor area.

Notwithstanding the above provisions, the minimum number of bedrooms for any dwelling shall be no less than the following:

Gross Floor Area	No. of Bedrooms
0 – 1500 SF	1
1501 – 2100 SF	2
2101 – 3000 SF	3
over 3001 SF	4

Effective Date: July 1, 2007
Revised Date: April 23, 2007

Director's Initials: BAK