Dear potential Tiny House Builder,

Thank you for considering NOAH certification.

The American dream has always been to own your own home. America's biggest homes are getting even bigger. According to the Census Bureau; The average size of homes built last year hit 2,600 square feet, an all-time high that surpassed even the housing bubble years, when homes averaged around 2,400 square feet. Over the years the homes have gotten larger and the number of people living in the home has decreased to an average household of 2.55 in 2012.

The US median house price in October 2015 was nearly $220,000.

On average; Americans pay 27% of their income for their home.

Stemming from the minimalist movement, people are finding peace and fulfillment with less...including a smaller home.

On August, 2015 there was the First Tiny House Jamboree in Colorado Springs, CO. Event organizers expected a turnout of 10,000 people... 40,000+ showed up, from all 50 states. The biggest takeaway from the event is that many people want to simplify their lifestyle! AND there's a very real desire to live in tiny houses and tiny house communities.

Many of the tiny house manufacturers have opted to go the route of RVIA certification. However there is a real problem with that.

The majority of the tiny houses built are intended for permanent habitation. Enclosed is a statement that I received from RVIA when I was researching certification. (see enclosed) As you can see the certification from RVIA specifically does not apply to houses intended to be lived in full time.

The "tiny house " is not a mobile home or manufactured home because it continues to be mobile; it by definition ..."can be easily transported and set up on a daily basis by an individual."

National Organization of Alternative Housing (NOAH) serves the tiny house community by filling the gap between temporary and permanent housing and between travel trailers and mobile homes. NOAH is a nonprofit 501 c-3 registered with the IRS. We wanted our inner workings to be an open book.
NOAH has adopted the standards and guidelines that you as a NOAH Certified Manufacturer will agree to build to.

Because new ventures have or should have major concerns about undercapitalization; and because we want to be fair with our builders and community; we have priced our service comparable to RV certification companies.

As you consider investing in membership, also consider the months of planning and the expenses that we must incur and continue to incur to insure continued self regulation. This is in no way and exhaustive list:

Administrative cost

Inspection cost

Travel expense

Archiving inspections... ad infinitum

Staff and outsourcing cost...and

Cost of doing research and communicating with the TH community.

And Because new ventures have or should have major concerns about undercapitalization; and because we want to be fair with our builders and community; we have priced our service comparable to RV certification companies that been around a while.

We hope you will consider joining our effort to self regulate before something happens to cause the government to step in with new laws and regulation for the Tiny House Movement and Industry.

Sincerely,

Robin Butler
NOAH MEMBERSHIP MANUAL

NOAH Overview with a description of the following:

1. What is NOAH mission statement
2. THOW Definitions
3. Maintenance of THOW Standards
4. NOAH Members Manufacturer Pledge
5. Standards Department Inspection Program
6. Requirements for Quality Control Program
7. NOAH Standards Program Enforcement
8. What the NOAH Seal Represents

National Organization of Alternative Housing

325 S. McGee Ave

Apopka, Florida 32703

PHONE: 508-603-NOAH (6624)

Web site: www.NOAHcertified.org

Email: info@NOAHcertified.org
The National Association of Alternative Housing (NOAH) {N.O.A.H.}

What is NOAH? The national trade association representing manufacturers and component suppliers producing Tiny Houses on Wheels manufactured in the United States.

1. Mission Statement:

NOAH’S mission is to promote and protect its member and the Tiny House industry by:

- Growing and expanding the TH market
- Pursuing a favorable business environment for NOAH members
- Promoting the health and wellbeing of NOAH
- Creating a positive TH experience for all consumers
- Providing the industry information and knowledge
- Fostering continuous improvement of products

2. What is a THOW?

A THOW is a vehicular-type unit primarily designed as temporary or permanent living quarters that is mounted on, or towed by, another vehicle; regulated by the United States Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) as a vehicle or a vehicle equipment; does not require a special highway use permit for operation on the highways; can be easily transported and set up on a daily basis by an individual; and are certified by their manufacturer as complying with the NFPA 1192 Standard, NFPA 70 NEC, and the ATHA Construction Guideline.

3. The Standards for THOW

How is it created? The THOW Standard is developed under the ANSI process. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) is a nonprofit association that establishes procedures and guidelines to create recognized minimum safety standards for products used by both consumers and industry. ANSI sanctions standards that have been created following rigid committee procedures that allow all affected entities a voice in their development. Among the critical issues reviewed by ANSI is the make-up of the committee
empowered to establish or revise the Standard. All affected entities must be represented and no interest group can be in a position to dictate the outcome.

The current THOW standard adopts NFPA 1192, NFPA 70 NEC and ANSI A119.5, except the frame requirements will be adjusted for a smaller house. The standard also addresses the THOW’s as a permanent residential unit by adopting the Construction Guidelines of the American Tiny House Association. This “Standard” will be referred to as the “THOW Standard” for the rest of this document.

4. NOAH Members Manufacturer Pledge

Manufacturers Build to This Standard Upon joining NOAH, manufacturers are required, as a condition of membership, to pledge in writing that they will build Tiny Houses that conform to the THOW Standard. The pledge, in part, reads: “We pledge to produce tiny House in compliance with the THOW Standard and agree to allow initial and ongoing unannounced inspections to verify our pledge.” Failure to comply with this pledge may result in Association membership being revoked, or the manufacturer being subject to disciplinary action following due process, should the manufacturer fail to achieve or maintain the required conformance to the THOW Standard.

All Manufacturers must comply with the following elements of NOAH Member’s certification on process:

a. Products that conform to the required standards as mandated by the Board of directors of NOAH.

b. The firm must identify a corporate officer or owner as being the firm’s owner/officer responsible of the company’s conformance with the required standards.

c. The firm further agrees to abide by the By-Laws of NOAH that provide for a due process dismissal of the member should the membership pledge be broken.

d. The firm must issue a written public statement to be placed on file with NOAH that it pledges to produce. The firm must allow the NOAH field inspectors access to all of its plants within ½ hour of the inspector’s arrival at such plants. In addition, the firm must provide a pool of at least three representatives, one of which must authorize or accompany the inspector on any inspection of its products and documentation records, as required to confirm the membership pledge. Inspections are unannounced, at the discretion of NOAH and are at a minimum of two per year.

e. The firm agrees to display the NOAH seal on each THOW it manufactures to indicate its certification of compliance with the required standards.
5. NOAH Standards Department Inspection Program

NOAH’S employees are a staff of professional standard inspectors who conduct unannounced inspection visits to each member manufacturer. The inspector performs an in person or virtual inspection from chassis to final finish, checking representative sample THOW for compliance with over THOW Standards and safety-related requirements. Any other THOW on the premises may also be inspected. When the inspector discovers a violation he documents it on an inspection report explaining the problem. A copy of the report is issued to the inspection contact. Deviations are classified as “A”, “B”, or “C” depending on their significance. When serious violations or repeated deviations from the standard are found the manufacturer is given 10 days to respond in writing, detailing what has been done to correct the fault and what steps have been taken to assure the fault will not be repeated. Follow-up unannounced inspections are also conducted to verify compliance. If the manufacturer still fails or refuses to comply, the manufacturer is subject to disciplinary action ranging from staff imposed probation (which results in more frequent inspections and a re-inspection fee) to expulsion from NOAH.

6. Minimum Requirements for NOAH Quality Control

A quality control program must be maintained and must contain the requirements set forth below. A manual shall be prepared outlining how these requirements must be implemented. The word “standard” as used below shall mean THOW standards.

- A person or organization shall be designated who shall have authority and responsibility to enforce the quality program and who shall report to a member of management who has responsibility extending beyond production.
- A system shall be established that provides documentation with respect to drawings, standards, specifications or tests used in connection with compliance with the applicable standard(s).
- Testing as required by the standards shall be performed on each house.
- Check lists shall be employed for each house and shall include all testing required in the applicable standard(s). Each check list shall contain a description of the house (type and model), identifying and date of inspections. The appropriate parts of the checklist shall be signed by the person who has performed the inspection or test; initialing is not acceptable.

**Standards Enforcement**

Disciplinary Action should a manufacturer be cited with a repeated “A” deviation, a twice repeated “B”, or a threetime repeated “C” deviation, the following disciplinary action shall be imposed. The manufacturers may be subject to a probation period, where frequency of inspections is increased. Guidelines are also established for the manufacturer to meet before being returned to a member in good standing. If after the probation period, the manufacturer is still in violation, the manufacturer may be subject to expulsion from NOAH.
Maintaining the Program

Updates and New Technology: Keeping the standard up to date and insuring that the inspections and enforcement procedures are uniform in their application are two of the primary missions of the NOAH standards Department. To assist the industry with uniformity, the Association publishes and maintains a handbook for the NOAH standards that addresses NOAH program positions and gives guidance about standard compliance. The maintenance of the handbook is based upon a consensus from the various inspecting organization, both government and third party. Copies of the Hand book and a subscription to an updating service are available for $199-Member, $249 Non-Member from NOAH at 325 S. McGee Ave., Apopka, Florida.

7. Displaying the NOAH Seal...The Manufacturer’s Certification of Compliance

Each manufacturer member of NOAH who meets the requirements of the Standards NOAH Inspection Program is granted the right and privilege to display the NOAH seal. The seal is an external recognition of the manufacturer’s commitment to maintain compliance to the adopted standards.

8. What the Seal Represents

12 volt Electrical Requirements as specified by ANSI, 12V Low voltage system standard in conversion in Tiny Houses on Wheels.

- Addresses the interfacing of the original chassis manufacturer and the tiny house manufacturer designs so as to be compatible.
- Over current protection tables and conductor (wire) sizing and protection criteria.

Requires listed lighting fixtures and other devices and appliances to be installed in accordance with manufacturer’s written instructions.

120V and or 240 v Electrical Requirements as specified in Article 551 and other applicable sections of NFPA 70, OF THE National Electrical Code.

- Ground fault protected receptacles are specified where they are appropriate.
- Only listed electrical fixtures, appliances, equipment and materials that have been labeled by nationally recognized testing agencies are allowed.

Dielectric tests are performed on the completed Tiny House to determine that the electrical system is installed correctly.