

One Storey Accessory Buildings and the Building Code

It's important to note that "Farm Buildings" do not fall under the scope of the Alberta Building Code (ABC). A Farm Building is a building used solely for the operation of the farm. It must be located on a parcel of land at least 20 acres in size and zoned agricultural. Uses would include the storage and maintenance of farm equipment, housing of livestock and storage of materials or produce.

Accessory buildings other than Farm Buildings do fall under the scope of the ABC. There are situations when an engineered design may be required for larger accessory buildings. Please note:

No Engineered Design

- Slab on grade foundations up to 592 sq ft in area. Slab thickness minimum 4".
- Slab on grade foundations up to 728 sq ft in area with the perimeter of the slab thickened (see information sheet).
- Concrete footing and frost wall foundations for buildings up to 500 m² in area. Typically a 8" x 18" footing with a 8" x 48" concrete wall above.
- Pole shed structures not exceeding 1,000 sq ft in area with walls not exceeding 12' in height.

Engineered Design Required

- Slab on grade foundations exceeding 728 sq ft in area.
- Pole shed type structures exceeding 1,000 sq ft in area or having walls exceeding 12' in height.
- Concrete pile and grade beam foundations.
- Buildings with a truss width greater than 40'.

There could be other situations where engineering design may be required such a buildings on sloping sites, construction of retaining walls, unusually high buildings.

Contact the Safety Codes Department at Red Deer County for more information 403-350-2170.