

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS



Permit Operations Division

Alternative Materials, Design, Methods of Construction  
and Equipment  
Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF ALTERNATIVE MATERIALS, DESIGN AND METHODS OF CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT

Project Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Building Permit # (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Relationship to Project: \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Owner Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Owner Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Use additional sheets as necessary.)*

*NOTE: This form should not be used for a code modification. It applies to requests for approval of alternative materials, design, methods of construction and equipment pursuant to Section 104.11 of the District of Columbia Construction Codes (12-A DCMR).*

In accordance with Section 104.11 of the Construction Codes (Title 12 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations ("DCMR")), I hereby request approval of an alternative material, design, method of construction or equipment not specifically prescribed by the Construction Codes in connection with the above-referenced project/permit.

1) Describe the proposed alternative material, design, method of construction or equipment. Use additional sheets as necessary.

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2) Does the proposed alternative design comply with the intent of the provisions of the Construction Codes, and/or is the proposed alternative material, construction method or equipment, for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed in the Construction Codes in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability and stability?

Yes  No

If Yes, please explain in the space provided. Use additional sheets as necessary.

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3) Is the proposed alternative material, design, method of construction and/or equipment supported by data from valid research reports from approved sources that is submitted as part of this application?  Yes  No

If Yes, please list the attached supporting reports with justification as to their validity in the space provided. Use additional sheets as necessary.

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4) Does the proposed alternative material, design, method of construction and/or equipment lessen health, accessibility, life and fire safety, or structural requirements?  Yes  No

If Yes, please explain in the space provided. Use additional sheets as necessary.

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5) Is the project address located in a flood-hazard area?  Yes  No

Projects in flood hazard areas require additional review, including by the District Department of the Environment (“DDOE”). The Flood Insurance Rate Map, <http://ddoe.dc.gov/floodplainmap>, shows the flood hazard areas, with additional information at <http://ddoe.dc.gov/service/flood-risk-maps> or from DDOE's Watershed Protection Division, Technical Services Branch, at (202) 535-2240.

If No, skip to p. 3 and provide D.C. Registered Professional’s Seal and signatures of Applicant and Owner

If Yes, does the proposed alternative material, design, method of construction and/or equipment require a variance from the requirements of the Flood Hazard Rules (Chapter 31 of Title 20 of the DCMR)?  Yes  No

If Yes, the applicant must complete and submit Part II of the “Supplemental Information for Flood-Hazard Areas” identifying the specific provision(s) of the Flood Hazard Rules for which a variance is requested. \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: All requests for alternative material, design, method of construction and/or equipment for projects located on a lot which is wholly or partially in a flood hazard area are subject to review and approval by DDOE.**

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**D.C. Registered Design Professional's Seal**

A registered design professional's seal is required unless the applicant can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Code Official that the proposed modification does not affect a technical, structural, fire safety or design requirement, or any requirement affecting the public health, safety or welfare, or involving the practice of engineering. **If a seal is not provided, please justify the absence in the space provided. Use additional sheets as necessary.**

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Owner's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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DCRA Reviewer's Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

- Recommend Approval       Recommend Tests       Recommend Disapproval

DCRA Reviewer's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

DDOE Reviewer's Comments (if lot in a flood hazard area subject to DDOE review): \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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- Recommend Approval       Recommend Tests       Recommend Denial

DDOE Reviewer's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Chief Building Official Comments and/or Conditions:

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Approved       Require Tests \*       Denied

*\*The Code Official has authority under 12-A DCMR 104.11.2 to require tests as evidence of compliance with the Construction Codes at no expense to the District of Columbia government, whenever there is insufficient evidence of compliance with the provisions of the Construction Codes, or evidence that a material, equipment or method of construction does not conform to the requirements of the Construction Codes, or in order to substantiate claims for alternative materials or methods.*

Describe required Test Method and/or Testing Procedures (use additional sheets as necessary):

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Has Code Official approved Agency to Conduct Tests?       Yes       No

Agency Conducting Tests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Building Official Signature



## SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR FLOOD-HAZARD AREAS

### PART I-Request for Modification of Construction Codes

Pursuant to Section 104.10.1 of the Construction Codes, approval of a requested modification of any provision of the Construction Codes for a property in a flood hazard area requires a determination by the Code Official that at least each the following conditions is met. Please provide the following information to evaluate the requested modification:

A. Provide good and sufficient cause that the unique characteristics of the size, configuration or topography of the site render the elevation standards of Section 1612 of the Construction Codes inappropriate. **Please explain in the space provided. Use additional sheets as necessary.**

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B. Provide evidence that failure to grant the requested modification would result in exceptional hardship by rendering the lot undevelopable. **Please explain in the space provided. Use additional sheets as necessary.**

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C. Provide evidence that the granting of the requested modification will **not** result in increased flood heights, additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, cause fraud on or victimization of the public, or conflict with existing laws or ordinances. **Please explain in the space provided. Use additional sheets as necessary.**

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D. Provide evidence that the requested modification is the minimum necessary to afford relief, considering the flood hazard. **Please explain in the space provided. Use additional sheets as necessary.**

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### PART II-Request for Variance of Flood-Hazard Rules

Pursuant to Section 3108 of the Flood Hazard Rules (Chapter 31 of Title 20 of the DCMR), approval of a requested variance from the Flood Hazard Rules requires a determination by the Code Official that at least each of the following conditions is met. A requested variance that may affect the base flood elevation as provided by 20 DCMR, Section 3105.8 also requires DDOE review. **Note: No variance shall be granted for any construction, development, use or activity within any floodway area that would cause any increase in the base flood elevation.** Please provide the following information to evaluate the requested variance:

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A. Will the requested variance affect the base elevation?

Yes  No

**Please explain in the space provided. Use additional sheets as necessary.**

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B. Provide evidence that the full performance of the requirements of the Flood Hazard Rules would result in undue hardship by reason of excessive structural or mechanical difficulty or impracticality of bringing the premises affected into full compliance with the Flood Hazard Rules. **Please explain in the space provided. Use additional sheets as necessary.**

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C. Provide evidence that the requested variance would not result in an unacceptable or prohibited increase in flood heights, additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, create nuisances, cause fraud on, or victimization of the public or conflict with any other applicable laws and regulations. **Please explain in the space provided. Use additional sheets as necessary.**

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D. Provide evidence that the requested variance involves only the least modification necessary to provide relief. **Please explain in the space provided. Use additional sheets as necessary.**

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Owner's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_