

CHAPTER 324
MANUFACTURED OR MOBILE HOME RETAILERS,
MANUFACTURERS, AND DISTRIBUTORS

[Prior to 11/26/25, see Public Safety Department[661] Ch 372]

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 1/1/28

481—324.1(103A) Definitions. The definitions in 2006 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2394, section 1, are made part of this chapter. In addition, the following words and phrases when used in this chapter shall have these meanings respectively ascribed to them, except when the context otherwise requires.

“*Bureau*” means the Building Code Bureau, Fire Marshal Division, Iowa Department of Public Safety, State Public Safety Headquarters Building, 215 East 7th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

“*Certificate of title*” means a document issued by the appropriate official which contains a statement of the owner’s title, the name and address of the owner, a description of the vehicle, a statement of all security interests and additional information required under the laws or rules of the jurisdiction in which the document was issued, and which is recognized as a matter of law as a document evidencing ownership of the vehicle described. The terms “title certificate,” “title only,” and “title” are synonymous with the term “certificate of title.”

“*Commissioner*” means the building code commissioner.

“*Department*” means the Iowa department of public safety.

“*Manufacturer’s certificate of origin*” means a certification signed by the manufacturer or importer that the manufactured or mobile home described has been transferred to the person or retailer named and that the transfer is the first transfer of the manufactured or mobile home in ordinary trade and commerce. The description shall include the make, model year, vehicle identification number, and other information which may be required by statute or rule. The terms “manufacturer’s statement,” “importer’s statement or certificate,” “MSO” and “MCO” are synonymous with the term “manufacturer’s certificate of origin.”

“*Model year*” means the year of original manufacture or the year certified by the manufacturer.

[Editorial change: IAC Supplement 6/17/09; Editorial change: IAC Supplement 11/26/25]

481—324.2(103A) Criteria for obtaining a manufactured or mobile home retailer’s license.

324.2(1) *Licensing information.* Information concerning license requirements may be obtained from the Building Code Bureau, Fire Marshal Division, Iowa Department of Public Safety, State Public Safety Headquarters Building, 215 East 7th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

324.2(2) *Application.* A manufactured or mobile home retailer shall file a completed application form at least 30 days prior to the expiration of a current license or, if the application is for an initial license, 30 days prior to the date on which the retailer anticipates doing business. A retailer may not operate without a current license.

324.2(3) *Expiration.* Each license expires on January 1 of the calendar year following the year in which the license is issued, except that a license issued in December of any year shall cover the following calendar year.

324.2(4) *Fees.* The license fee established by statute is \$100 annually or for any portion of a year, except that a license issued in December of any year is valid for the following calendar year and any retailer with a license valid for a particular calendar year may continue to operate under that license until the end of January of the following calendar year.

324.2(5) *Surety bond.* The applicant shall obtain a surety bond in the amount of \$50,000. The original bond shall be filed with the department. The bond shall provide for a 30-day notice to the bureau, prior to cancellation. The bureau shall notify the bonding company of any violations of Iowa Code chapter 103A or these rules by the license holder. The bureau shall notify the retailer by mail or personal service that the retailer’s license shall be revoked the same date the bond is canceled unless the bond is reinstated or a new bond is filed.

324.2(6) *Place of business.* The applicant shall maintain a place of business at a designated location. A manufactured or mobile home may be used as an office if the home’s taxes are current. The

place of business shall include telephone service and an office area in which are kept the business records, manufacturer's certificates of origin, certificates of title or other evidence of ownership of each manufactured or mobile home offered for sale.

324.2(7) *Separate place of business.* A separate retailer's license shall be obtained for each county in which the applicant maintains a place of business.

[Editorial change: IAC Supplement 6/17/09; Editorial change: IAC Supplement 11/26/25]

481—324.3(103A) Operation under distinct name. A manufactured or mobile home retailer shall not represent or advertise the business under any name other than the name that appears on the retailer's license.

[Editorial change: IAC Supplement 11/26/25]

481—324.4(103A) Supplemental statements. A manufactured or mobile home retailer shall file with the commissioner a written statement upon change of name or change of location of the retailer's place of business. The written statement shall be filed within ten days of the change with a fee of \$100 in payment for a new license reflecting the change.

[Editorial change: IAC Supplement 11/26/25]

481—324.5(103A) Denial, suspension, or revocation—civil penalties.

324.5(1) The commissioner may deny the issuance or renewal of a license if the applicant has committed any violation of any provision of law applicable to the operation of a business required to be licensed pursuant to this chapter.

324.5(2) The commissioner may suspend or revoke a license for any violation of this chapter or of any other provision of law applicable to the operation of a business required to be licensed pursuant to this chapter.

324.5(3) The commissioner may impose a civil penalty for any violation of this chapter or of Iowa Code chapter 103A relating to the manufacture of a manufactured or mobile home. A civil penalty may be imposed in addition to a denial of the issuance or renewal of a license, a suspension of a license, or a revocation of a license. A civil penalty shall not be imposed in lieu of a denial of the issuance or renewal of a license or of a revocation of a license. A civil penalty shall not exceed \$1,000 for each offense. Each violation involving a separate manufactured or mobile home, or a separate failure or refusal to allow an act to be performed or to perform an act as required by this chapter or Iowa Code chapter 103A, constitutes a separate offense. However, the maximum amount of civil penalties which may be assessed for any series of violations occurring within one year from the date of the first violation shall not exceed \$1 million.

324.5(4) Suspension or revocation for nonpayment of child support. The following procedures shall apply to actions taken by the building code commissioner on a certificate of noncompliance received from the Iowa department of human services pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 252J:

a. The notice required by Iowa Code section 252J.8 shall be served upon the licensee by restricted certified mail, return receipt requested, or personal service in accordance with Iowa Rule of Civil Procedure 1.305. Alternatively, the licensee may accept service personally or through authorized counsel.

b. The effective date of revocation or suspension of certification of a licensee, as specified in the notice required by Iowa Code section 252J.8, shall be 60 days following service upon the licensee.

c. Licensees shall keep the building code commissioner informed of all court actions and all child support recovery unit actions taken under or in connection with Iowa Code chapter 252J and shall provide the building code commissioner with copies, within 7 days of filing or issuance, of all applications filed with the district court pursuant to Iowa Code section 252J.9, all court orders entered in such actions, and withdrawals of certificates of noncompliance by the child support recovery unit.

d. All applicable fees for an application or reinstatement must be paid by the licensee before a license will be issued, renewed, or reinstated after the building code commissioner has denied the issuance or renewal of a license or has suspended or revoked a license pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 252J.

e. In the event a licensee files a timely district court action following service of a notice pursuant to Iowa Code sections 252J.8 and 252J.9, the building code commissioner shall continue with the intended action described in the notice upon the receipt of a court order lifting the stay, dismissing the action,

or otherwise directing the department to proceed. For the purpose of determining the effective date of revocation or suspension of the certification, the building code commissioner shall count the number of days before the action was filed and the number of days after the action was disposed of by the court.

f. Suspensions or revocations imposed pursuant to this subrule may not be appealed administratively within the department of public safety.

NOTE: The procedures established in subrule 324.5(4) implement the requirements of Iowa Code chapter 252J. The provisions of Iowa Code chapter 252J establish mandatory requirements for an agency which administers a licensure program, such as the one established in this chapter, and provide that actions brought under these provisions are not subject to contested case procedures established in Iowa Code chapter 17A, but must be appealed directly to district court.

324.5(5) Appeals. Any denial, suspension, or revocation of a certification, or any civil penalty imposed upon a licensee under this rule, other than one imposed pursuant to subrule 372.5(4), may be appealed by the licensee within 14 days of receipt of the notice. Appeals of actions taken by the building code commissioner under this rule shall be to the commissioner of public safety and shall be treated as contested cases, following the procedures established in rules 661—10.301(17A) through 661—10.332(17A).

[Editorial change: IAC Supplement 11/26/25]

481—324.6(103A,321) Sale or transfer of manufactured or mobile homes. The following criteria apply to the sale or transfer of manufactured or mobile homes.

324.6(1) Retailer sales.

a. A manufactured home, which was manufactured on or after June 15, 1976, and which is owned by a retailer, shall not be offered for sale unless the retailer has a properly assigned manufacturer's certificate of origin or a certificate of title, a seal from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development properly attached, a data plate attached by the manufacturer, and a manufacturer's installation manual for the home, if the manual is available to the retailer. A retailer shall not sell a manufactured or mobile home owned by the retailer without delivering to the transferee a manufacturer's certificate of origin or a certificate of title duly assigned to the transferee.

b. A used manufactured or mobile home with an Iowa title assigned to the retailer shall not be reassigned by the retailer. After acquiring the used home, the retailer shall obtain a new certificate of title as required by law.

324.6(2) Transfers. A manufactured or mobile home not owned by a retailer may be offered for sale and sold by a retailer under the following conditions:

a. The manufactured or mobile home owner and retailer shall enter into a written listing agreement, signed by the owner or by one owner of a manufactured or mobile home owned jointly by more than one person, and signed by the retailer, which shall be dated and include the following provisions:

- (1) The make, model year, and vehicle identification number.
- (2) The period of time that the agreement shall remain in force.
- (3) The commission or other remuneration that the retailer is entitled to receive.
- (4) The price for which the manufactured or mobile home shall be sold.
- (5) The name and address of the secured party, if the manufactured or mobile home is subject to a security interest.
- (6) Any additional terms to which the owner(s) and retailer agree.

b. If current taxes have not been paid, the taxes and penalties shall be paid from the proceeds of the sale.

c. The retailer shall inform a prospective purchaser of a manufactured or mobile home that the home is not owned by the retailer and, if requested by a prospective purchaser, provide the name and address of the owner(s).

d. An offer to purchase a manufactured or mobile home shall be in writing.

e. The retailer shall make a written disclosure to the purchaser of the description of the manufactured or mobile home; the name and address of the owner; if the home is subject to a security interest, the name and address of the secured party; and, if the current taxes have not been paid, the amount of taxes and penalties due. The disclosure statement shall be signed and dated by the transferee. The disclosure

statement shall be in duplicate. The original shall be given to the transferee and the duplicate retained by the retailer, at the retailer's principal place of business, for a period of three years.

f. The documents required pursuant to this subrule shall be made available to the commissioner or any designee of the commissioner for inspection upon request.

[Editorial change: IAC Supplement 11/26/25]

481—324.7(103A) Right of inspection. The commissioner or any designee of the commissioner shall have the authority to inspect manufactured or mobile homes, business records, manufacturer's certificates of origin, certificates of title or other evidence of ownership of each manufactured or mobile home offered for sale.

[Editorial change: IAC Supplement 11/26/25]

481—324.8(103A) Criteria for obtaining a manufactured or mobile home manufacturer's or distributor's license. Information concerning license requirements may be obtained from the Building Code Bureau, Building and Construction Division, Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing, 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 100, Des Moines, Iowa 50321.

324.8(1) Application. A manufactured or mobile home manufacturer or distributor shall file a completed application form at least 30 days prior to the expiration of a current license, or if the application is for an initial license, 30 days prior to the date on which the manufacturer or distributor anticipates doing business. A manufacturer or distributor may not operate without a current license.

324.8(2) Expiration. Each license expires on January 1 of the calendar year following the year in which it is issued, except that a license issued in December of any year shall cover the following calendar year.

324.8(3) Fees. The license fee established by statute is \$100 annually or for any portion of a year, except that a license issued in December of any year is valid for the following calendar year and any manufacturer or distributor with a license valid for a particular calendar year may continue to operate under that license until the end of January of the following calendar year.

324.8(4) Notification. Manufactured or mobile home manufacturers and distributors shall, within ten days of the fact, notify the bureau in writing of:

a. Any change in the name, method of doing business or location of the place of business as shown on the license and shall include a fee of \$100 in payment of a new license reflecting the change. However, a change in the location of the place of business when the original location is in an area subject to a disaster emergency proclamation issued by the governor pursuant to Iowa Code section 29C.6 and when the relocation results from flooding, storm damage, or other conditions which form a basis for issuance of the disaster emergency proclamation shall not require the issuance of a new license. In these circumstances, an amended license shall be furnished to the licensee at no charge to the licensee.

b. Issuance of a contract with a person in this state to sell new manufactured or mobile homes at retail.

c. Any change in the trade names of manufactured or mobile homes being manufactured for delivery in this state.

324.8(5) Required acts. Manufactured or mobile home manufacturers and distributors shall furnish sample manufacturer's certificates of origin to the commissioner for each make of manufactured or mobile home assembled by the manufacturer for delivery in this state.

[Editorial change: IAC Supplement 6/17/09; Editorial change: IAC Supplement 11/26/25]

481—324.9(17A,103A) Waivers. Applications for waivers of the provisions of the rules in this chapter may be submitted and shall be considered under the procedures and criteria established in 481—Chapter 6, except for the following:

1. Petitions for waivers shall be addressed to:
Building Code Commissioner
Building Code Bureau
Building and Construction Division
Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing

6200 Park Avenue, Suite 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50321

2. Consideration of and determinations regarding requests for waivers of any provision of this chapter shall be the responsibility of the building code commissioner. Any reference to “department” in 481—Chapter 6 shall be replaced, for purposes of this rule, with “building code commissioner.”

[Editorial change: IAC Supplement 6/17/09; Editorial change: IAC Supplement 11/26/25]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 103A as amended by 2006 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2394.

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