

Q & A - Release of the PDD Safety Standards Consultation Final Report

1. Is the Municipal Affairs exemption under the Safety Codes Act still in effect?

Yes, the Municipal Affairs' exemption under the Safety Codes Act is still in effect until December 30, 2016. This means safety codes legislation (i.e. building/fire codes) will apply to homes of individuals receiving PDD services to a residential standard as opposed to the care standard. While this exemption is in place, the care standard will still apply where an individual is detained or dependent on staff to evacuate in the event of a fire or emergency. Inspections will occur based on a referral, complaint or incident.

2. What is the status of inspections under the Public Health Act?

Alberta Health Services public health inspectors have ceased proactive inspections under the PDD Regulation which has been repealed, but may conduct inspections to follow up on previous violations that fall under the Public Health Act. They may also inspect on receipt of complaints about rental housing as they would do for all Albertans.

3. Do I still have to follow the standards that were in the PDD Safety Standards Regulation?

The PDD Safety Standards Regulation was repealed on April 1, 2016 which means the eight (8) standards previously under that Regulation no longer apply.

4. What does it mean if there was a previous violation issued under the PDD Safety Standards Regulation?

The PDD Safety Standards Regulation was repealed on April 1, 2016 which means that violations issued under the Regulation no longer apply. However, this is different than violations issued under the Public Health Act or the Safety Codes Act – which may still apply (see questions 1 and 2).

5. How will the safety codes be interpreted and applied to the homes of individuals receiving PDD services after December 30, 2016?

Municipal Affairs will be aligning to Government's response to the principles recommended in the Consultation Team's report to provide guidance to municipalities and safety officials. This includes that the starting point for any safety code assessment will be that these homes and buildings are residences, regardless of how the services are funded. Additional details will be available in the coming months.

6. Has anything changed in situations where four or more individuals are residing in the same house?

No. When there are four or more people living in the same residence, the Supportive Living Accommodations Licensing Act (SLALA) still applies. This Act has its own set of standards that apply regardless of how the services/supports are being funded, meaning it is not specific to PDD.