

Rules Affecting Installation of New Piers 4-15-08

Current law requires a riparian (waterfront) owner to obtain a permit from the DNR for a pier, wharf or other structure that is placed in navigable waters. ***However, Act 204 exempts some piers and structures from having to obtaining a permit.*** Exempt piers include:

- A pier or wharf that is no more than 6 feet wide that extends no further than to a point where the water is 3 feet at its maximum depth, or to the point where there is adequate depth for mooring a boat or using a boat hoist or boat lift, whichever is closer to farther from the shoreline, and which that has no more that than 2 boat slips for the first 50 feet of riparian owner's shoreline footage and no more than one additional boat slip for each additional 50 feet of the riparian owner's shoreline.
- As an exception to the width limitation described above, a pier may have an area as a loading platform that is more than 6 feet wide if the platform is not more than 8 feet wide, it extends perpendicular to one or both sides of the pier, and it is located at the lakeward end of the pier or at the end of the pier that extends into a stream.

The Act also exempts piers from the permitting process that:

- were placed on the bed of a navigable water on or before February 6, 2004, is exempt from the permit requirements under this section ***if all of the following apply:***
 1. The pier or wharf is not more than 8 feet wide, except that a pier may have an area as a loading platform that is more than 8 feet wide if the platform is located at the lakeward end of the pier, or located at the end of the pier that extends into a stream, does not have more than 300 square feet in surface area, and meets the following width requirements:
 - a. If the platform has a surface area of 200 square feet or less, the platform may be of any width.
 - b. If the platform has a surface area of more than 200 square feet but not more than 300 square feet, the platform may not be more than 10 feet wide.
 2. The pier or wharf does not interfere with the riparian rights of other riparian owners.
 3. ***The riparian owner registers the pier or wharf with the DNR, in the manner and form required by the department, no later than the first day of the April of 2011.*** (There is no fee for this registration.)

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Go to <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2007/data/acts/07Act204>.) for the full text of the law.