

# Recreational Vehicles – *Life Safety Requirements*



The Province of Manitoba Office of the Fire Commissioner has a responsibility to ensure that any recreational vehicle for sale or rent in the Province of Manitoba complies with the Canadian Standards Association CAN/CSA Z240 requirements for mobile housing and recreational vehicles. It outlines standards in areas such as:

- propane gas
- vehicular
- electrical
- plumbing
- fire safety

## What does this mean to me?

A regulation of *The Buildings and Mobile Homes Act* states:

*“No individual, including a dealer or manufacturer, shall at wholesale or retail or by auction or otherwise, directly or indirectly, offer or expose for sale, rent or lease, or otherwise commercially dispose of a recreational vehicle that does not bear a label.”*

This means you cannot sell a recreational vehicle unless it displays an approval sticker or label to show it is certified. It is the seller's responsibility to ensure certification. A recreational vehicle (RV) that is not certified must undergo a standards inspection administered by the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

In summer, the Office of the Fire Commissioner in cooperation with the RCMP may conduct random roadside check stops to assist RV owners in meeting the required life safety standards.

## How can I tell if my RV is certified?

Properly certified recreational vehicles must display a certification sticker issued by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or the Office of the Fire Commissioner for Manitoba. This sticker is usually near a main doorway.



*Canadian Standards Association label*

<b>Manitoba Labour</b> Office of the Fire Commissioner	<b>Travail Manitoba</b> Bureau du Commissaire aux incendies	
<b>STANDARDS DE NORMES</b>	<b>S</b>	
MOBILE HOME RECREATIONAL VEHICLE	MAISON MOBILE VÉHICULE DE PLAISANCE	
DATE		
SERIAL NO. N° DE SÉRIE		
MANUFACTURER FABRICANT		
AUTHORIZED AGENT AGENT AGREE		

*Office of the Fire Commissioner label*

If a certification label or sticker does not appear on the RV, or if it has become unreadable, the seller must contact the Office of the Fire Commissioner and arrange for a standards inspection conducted by a qualified inspector. A modified RV needs re-inspection.

# Fundamental Areas of Inspection

## 1 Propane

*All equipment must be Canadian Gas Association (CGA) approved.*

When used properly, propane or liquefied petroleum (LP) is a safe, efficient and economical source of fuel. In recreational vehicles, appliances such as ranges, ovens, furnaces, water heaters and refrigerators can operate on LP.



Portable propane cylinders bear a Transport Canada (TC) number and date. Cylinders must be recertified after 10 years, and must be replaced if there are signs of

damage such as dents or excessive rust.



Gas hoses must be pliable, free from cracks and cuts, and show no other signs of damage.



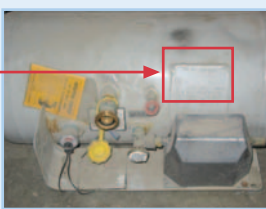
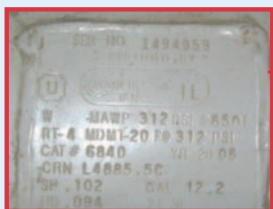


Gas regulators must be properly mounted and have a cover for protection from weather.

To prevent damage to copper gas tubing during transport, it must be insulated from the appliance frame with grommets or flexible plastic covering.



All permanently mounted propane tanks have a Canadian Registration Number (CRN). There is no expiry date on these types of tanks. The CRN must be legible on the tank and have no visible defects (dents, excessive rust, etc.). Tanks with visible signs of defects must be replaced.



## 2 Electrical

RVs generally operate on two types of electrical systems either a 110-volt system or a 12-volt DC system. The 110-volt system works only when the shore power cord is connected to an outside power source, such as an outlet at a campground or at your house. These cords are rated at either 30 amps or 50 amps depending on the amperage draw of your RV. Shore power cords must be a minimum of six metres in length and free of visible signs of deterioration (overheating, cuts, cracks, etc.) or modifications to plug. The other electrical system is a 12-volt DC system like in your car. All 110/12-volt equipment, electrical hardware and consumer electronics must be CSA approved for use in your RV. Recreational vehicles must also be equipped with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) device. The GFCI disconnects the outlet, protecting you from electrocution if a circuit or appliance develops a shock hazard.



## 3 Vehicle Components

On motorized RVs, drive related components, including the engine and transmission, should be inspected annually by a licensed technician.

During an inspection, the inspector will examine:

- safety chains, to ensure they remain unmodified and free from defects
- springs
- brakes and wires
- breakaway switch
- tire condition
- tire pressure
- jack operation (legs and feet – landing gear)
- frame and related components

## 4 Plumbing

Plumbing components used in recreational vehicles must be certified. Inspectors will check to ensure that pipes, supports, drains or hoses are secured so they will not become a road hazard.

# Fire Safety Requirements

*All detection devices must be rated for recreational vehicle use*

## 1 Smoke Detectors

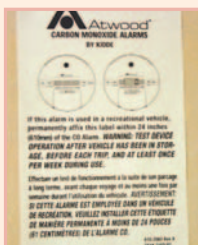
Each travel trailer, fifth-wheel trailer, and motor home must be equipped with at least one battery-operated smoke detector listed for use in a recreational vehicle and conforming to CAN/ULC (Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada) standards.

The smoke detector must be installed according to specifications and within the living or cooking area.



## 2 Propane Gas Detectors

All propane gas appliance equipped recreational vehicles must have a properly installed propane gas detector approved for use in recreational vehicles and conforming to UL (Underwriters' Laboratories) Standard 1484. Propane gas is heavy, thus the detector must be installed close to the floor. A smoke detector or carbon monoxide detector will not detect a gas leak.



## 3 Carbon Monoxide Detectors

A carbon monoxide detector approved for use in recreational vehicles and conforming to Underwriters



Laboratories Standard 2034 must be properly installed in all:

- recreational vehicles with an internal combustion engine
- recreational vehicles designed to be fitted with an internal combustion engine
- slide-in campers



Along with regular inspection of your RV's chassis and generator exhaust system, check for openings in floors or sidewalls. Be sure to park your RV in a well-ventilated area, avoiding obstructions that may prevent exhaust gases from dissipating.

### ***Potential sources of carbon monoxide***

- Engine Exhaust
- Camp Fires
- Portable Generator
- Portable Space Heaters
- Gas Stove and Ovens
- Defective Engine Exhaust System
- Portable Grills
- Other RV's
- Generator Exhaust

## **4 Portable Fire Extinguishers**

***Must conform to CAN/ULC standard***

Fuel burning appliance-equipped recreational vehicles must have a portable fire extinguisher conforming to CAN/ULC standards with a minimum rating of 5BC, except for motor homes where the minimum rating must be 10BC.



The fire extinguisher must be located in a readily accessible position away from potential fire hazards.

## Can I import an RV from the United States?

If you plan to import a vehicle from the United States, you need to know if it qualifies for importation under Transport Canada's Registrar of Imported Vehicles (RIV) program. The program ensures that qualified vehicles imported from the United States are brought into compliance with Canadian Safety Standards and properly inspected. For more information, contact:

### ***Registrar of Imported Vehicles***

Phone: 1-888-848-8240

### ***Canada Border Services Agency***

Toll free in Canada:

1-800-461-9999 (English)

1-800-959-2036 (French)

Outside Canada:

506-636-5064 (English)

506-636-5067 (French)

### ***Transport Canada***

Toll free in Canada: 1-800-333-0371

Outside Canada: 613-998-8616



## Fees

### *What are the costs associated with a standards inspection?*

A standards inspection is required when a mobile home does not have a CSA label or the label is no longer legible. United States made units that have a Registrar of Imported Vehicles (RIV) label also must have a standards inspection label.

<b>Less than 13 feet</b>	<b>\$75</b>
<b>13 feet to 33 feet</b>	<b>\$95</b>
<b>33 feet to 540 square feet</b>	<b>\$300</b>
<b>540 square feet to 1,080 square feet</b>	<b>\$450</b>
<b>1,080 square feet and up</b>	<b>\$600</b>
<b>Special Acceptance</b>	<b>\$45</b>
<i>If a valid CSA or standards inspection label on an RV requires replacement due to accident or hail damage, you may apply to have it replaced. Send your application with along with a cheque for \$45 payable to the Minister of Finance (may be reimbursed by your RV insurer). An inspector reviews the application and, upon acceptance, a replacement label is sent to the applicant.</i>	
<b>Permit to Sell</b>	<b>\$20</b>
<i>A permit is required by all dealers when selling a used mobile home.</i>	



*For complete details on RV certification,  
contact your local Codes and Standards office:*

**Office of the Fire Commissioner**

1601 Van Horne Avenue East  
Brandon, Manitoba R7A 7K2  
Toll Free: 1-888-253-1488  
Direct: 204-726-6855  
Fax: 204-726-6847

**Office of the Fire Commissioner**

508-401 York Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0P8  
Toll Free: 1-800-282-8069  
Direct: 204-945-3322  
Fax: 204-948-2089