

Recreational Vehicles

Life Safety Requirements



The 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 construction standard CAN/CSA Z240 requirements for mobile housing and recreational vehicles. It outlines standards in areas such as:

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

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), the Quality Auditing Institute (QAI), Intertek, the Office of the Fire Commissioner (Manitoba) or another certifying agency approved by the Standards Council of Canada. This label is usually located near a main doorway.



Canadian Standards Association label



Intertek label



Office of the Fire Commissioner label



Quality Auditing Institute label

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

Fundamental Areas of Inspection

1 Propane

All equipment must be Canadian Standards Association (CSA) 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. Propane

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 certified and installed compliant to the Manitoba Liquid Propane Gas Code. They 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, they must be insulated from the appliance frame with wire loom or rubber grommets.



All permanently mounted propane tanks must have a Canadian Registration Number (CRN). There is a five year recertification requirement on these 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.



Note: Propane tanks have a five year recertification requirement date while portable propane cylinders have a 10 year recertification requirement as per CSA B149.2-08 – Propane Code.



2 Electrical

RVs generally operate on two types of electrical systems either a 120-volt system or a 12-volt DC system. The 120-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 15 amps through 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 the cord ends.

The other electrical system is a 12-volt DC system like in your car. All 120/12-volt equipment, electrical hardware and consumer electronics must be CSA approved for use in your RV. Recreational vehicles must also be equipped with ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) devices on exterior duplex receptacles and on interior receptacles within one metre of a sink, tub, etc.



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 technician will examine:

- springs
- brakes and wires
- 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 CSA certified. Inspectors will check to ensure that pipes, supports, drains or hoses are secured so they will not become a health or road hazard. Further, adjustable shower heads must be fastened to the wall of the shower.

Fire Safety Requirements

All detection devices must be rated for recreational vehicle use

1 Smoke Detectors

Each recreational vehicle must be equipped with at least one battery operated smoke detector listed for use in a recreational vehicle and conforming to CAN/ULC S531 – Standard for Smoke Alarms (Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada).

The smoke detector must be installed according to the requirements of CAN/CSA S531 Section 5.4.2 Warning Labels and mounted within the living or cooking area.



2 Propane Gas Detectors

All propane gas appliance equipped recreational vehicles must have a propane gas detector installed and approved for use in recreational vehicles, conforming to either CSA B149.2-08 – Propane Code or UL Standard 1484, the Standard of Safety for Residential Gas Detectors. Propane gas is heavier than air, thus the detector must be installed close to the floor. A smoke detector or carbon monoxide detector will not detect/alarm a propane gas leak.



3 Carbon Monoxide Detectors

A carbon monoxide detector approved for use in recreational vehicles and conforming to CAN/CSA 6.19 - residential carbon monoxide alarming devices 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, and
- recreational vehicles with fuel fired appliances (ex: range, furnace, hot water tank , etc.).



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
- Defective Engine Exhaust System
- Liquefied petroleum (LP) infrared heaters
- Kerosene Heaters
- Portable Grills
- Other RV's
- Generator Exhaust
- Gas Stove and Ovens

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 S504 - Standard for Dry Chemical Fire Extinguishers standards with a minimum rating of 5 B:C, except for motor homes where the minimum rating must be 10 B:C.



The fire extinguisher must be located in a readily accessible position within 600 mm (24 inches) from the main entrance and away from potential fire hazards. Fire extinguishers must be re-qualified or replaced every 10 years.

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 basic Canadian Safety Standards and properly inspected. These units still require compliance to the CSA Z240 construction codes, which is a Standards inspection conducted by Inspectors at the Office of the Fire Commissioner. 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 upon the sale of an RV when it does not have a valid certification label or the label is no longer legible. US manufactured RV units that have a Registrar of Imported Vehicles (RIV) label shall have a standards inspection label.

Overall Length	Fee
Less than 13 feet	\$75
13 feet to 33 feet	\$95
33 feet to 540 ft ²	\$300
540 ft ² to 1,080 ft ²	\$450
1.080 ft ² and up	\$600
Special Acceptance *	\$45
Permit to Sell **	\$20

**If a valid standards inspection label on an RV requires replacement due to accident or hail damage, you may apply to have it replaced through your certified RV dealership. An inspector reviews the application which must include the insurance claim number and, upon acceptance, a replacement label is sent to the applicant.*

***A Permit to Sell is required by any dealers when selling a used, certified RV.*



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

Office of the Fire Commissioner

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

Office of the Fire Commissioner

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

Office of the Fire Commissioner

27 – 2nd Avenue SW
Dauphin MB R7N 3E5
Direct: 204-648-7413
Fax: 204-726-6847