

Chapter HSS 178

CAMPGROUNDS AND CAMPING RESORTS

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Note: Chapter H 78 as it existed on August 31, 1978 was repealed and a new Chapter H 78 was created effective September 1, 1978. Chapter H 78 was renumbered Chapter HSS 178, effected June, 1, 1982.

HSS 178.01 Scope of rules. (1) **APPLICABILITY.** The provisions of these rules shall apply to the owner, and to the operator, if other than the owner, of any campground and camping resort as hereafter defined. At time of change of ownership, the facility must completely comply with the version of the code in effect at that time.

Note: See ch. NR 45, Wis. Adm. Code for additional requirements applicable to state owned or leased parks.

(2) **APPROVED COMPARABLE CONSTRUCTION.** When strict compliance with these regulations appears to be impractical and satisfactory proof is provided in writing to the department, it may approve modifications if comparable facilities as needed to safeguard public health, safety and welfare are provided.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1978, No. 272, eff. 9-1-78; renum. from H 78.01, Register, May, 1982, No. 317, eff. 6-1-82.

HSS 178.02 Definitions. (1) Department means the department of health and social services.

(2) Camp space means a parcel of land in a developed campground or camping resort for the placement of a single recreational vehicle and for the exclusive use of its occupants.

(3) Campground means any of the following:

(a) *Primitive campground* means the sites owned by a person, state or local government designated, maintained, intended or used for the purpose of supplying a location for overnight camping where locations are accessible by canoe, boat or by hiking but not by campers' motor vehicles. Such areas open to the public and designated as usable by the public as primitive campground areas may be set aside for free or pay camping purposes.

(b) *Developed campground and camping resort* means any parcel or tract of land owned by a person, state or local government accessible by automobile or other engine driven vehicle designed, maintained, intended or used for the purpose of supplying accommodations for overnight use by a recreational vehicle, open to the public and designated as

a developed camp area and set aside for free or paying camping purposes.

(c) *Walk-in camp* means a facility equivalent to a developed campground or camping resort except that it is not accessible by campers' motor driven vehicle.

(4) Dependent recreational vehicle means one which is dependent upon camp facilities for toilet and lavatory.

(5) Gross site area means the areas used for camp spaces and related spacing, facilities and other improvements required by this chapter.

(6) Person means an individual, partnership, firm, company, corporation or agency, whether tenant, owner, lessee, licensee, or their agent, heir or assign.

(7) Recreational vehicle means any of the following:

(a) *Travel trailer* means a vehicular, portable structure built on a chassis and on wheels; that is between 10 and 36 feet long, including the hitch and 8 feet or less in width; designated to be used as a temporary dwelling for travel, recreation, vacation or other uses and towed by a car, station wagon or truck. It includes so-called fifth-wheel units.

(b) *Pick-up coach* means a structure designed to be mounted on a truck chassis for use as a temporary dwelling for travel, recreation, vacation or other uses.

(c) *Motor-home* means a portable, temporary dwelling to be used for travel, recreation, vacation, or other uses, constructed as an integral part of a self-propelled vehicle.

(d) *Camping trailer* means a canvas or folding structure mounted on wheels and designed for travel, recreation, vacation or other uses.

(e) *Tent* means a portable lodge of canvas or strong cloth, stretched and sustained by poles.

Note: See s. 348.07, Stats., concerning over-all length of vehicles and combinations thereof.

(8) Recreational vehicle parking area means a parcel of land in which 2 or more spaces are occupied or intended for occupancy by recreational vehicles for transient dwelling purposes.

(9) Sanitary station means a facility used for removing and disposing of wastes from recreational vehicle holding tanks.

(10) Self-contained recreational vehicle means one which can operate independent of connections to sewer, water and electric systems. It contains a water-flushed toilet, lavatory, shower and kitchen sink, all of which are connected to water storage and sewage holding tanks located within the recreational vehicle.

(11) Service building means a structure housing toilet, lavatory and such other facilities as may be required by this chapter.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1978, No. 272, eff. 9-1-78; renum. from H 78.02, Register, May, 1982, No. 317, eff. 6-1-82.

HSS 178.03 Camp plan. (1) **GENERAL.** Every camp space and provided facility shall be located on a well drained area not subject to intermittent flooding. The premises shall be properly graded so as to prevent the accumulation of storm or other waters that may create hazards to the property or the health and safety of the occupants. No camp space or provided facility shall be located in an area that is situated so that drainage from any source of filth can be deposited thereon or upon adjoining property.

(2) **SOIL AND GROUND COVER.** Exposed ground surfaces in all parts of every parking area shall be paved, or otherwise protected to prevent soil erosion and eliminate objectionable dust.

(3) **SEPARATION BETWEEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLES.** Recreational vehicles shall be separated from each other and from other structures by at least 10 feet, except where a camp space has been developed to accommodate 2 recreational vehicles. Any accessory structure such as attached awnings, carports, or individual storage facilities shall, for purposes of this separation requirement, be considered to be part of the recreational vehicle.

(4) **DENSITY REQUIREMENT.** The density shall not exceed 25 spaces per acre of gross site area except that the board may under special circumstances permit a higher density provided comparable facilities as needed to safeguard public health, safety and welfare are established.

(5) **REQUIRED RECREATION AREA.** In all recreational vehicle parking areas there shall be at least one recreation area which shall be easily accessible from all recreational vehicle spaces. The total of such recreation area(s) shall be not less than 8% of the gross site area of 2,500 square feet, whichever is greater.

(6) **SETBACKS FROM PUBLIC STREETS.** Excepting for the interior road system, all recreational vehicles shall be located at least 25 feet from any parking area boundary line abutting upon a public street or highway.

(7) **CAMPGROUND STREET SYSTEM.** (a) *General requirements.* If parking areas are provided they shall be established with safe and convenient vehicular access from abutting public streets or roads to each recreational vehicle space. Alignment and gradient shall be properly adapted to topography. Surfacing and maintenance shall provide a smooth, hard and dense surface which shall be well drained.

(b) *Access.* Access to camp spaces, except primitive or walk-in, shall be designed to minimize congestion and hazards at their entrance or exit and allow free movement on adjacent streets. All traffic into or out of the parking areas shall be through such entrances and exits.

(c) *Internal streets.* Surfaced roadways shall be of adequate width to accommodate anticipated traffic and in any case shall meet the following minimum requirements:

1. One-way, no parking, 11 feet. Acceptable only if less than 500 feet total length or serving less than 25 recreational vehicle spaces.

2. One-way, parking on one side only, or two-way, no parking, 18 feet. Acceptable only if serving less than 50 recreational vehicle spaces.

3. Two-way, no parking, 20 feet.

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4. Two-way, parking on one side only, 27 feet.
5. Two-way, parking on both sides, 34 feet.

(d) *Off-street parking and maneuvering space.* Each recreational vehicle parking area shall provide sufficient parking and maneuvering space so that the parking, loading or maneuvering of recreational vehicles incidental to parking shall not necessitate the use of any public street, sidewalk or right-of-way or any private grounds not part of the recreational vehicle parking area.

Note: Prior to location and construction of a campground contact the local level of government to determine their requirements if any. Matters of zoning, building permit, etc., may be factors requiring clearance. Also, contact the state department of industry, labor and human relations concerning portions of the state building code referred to in this chapter.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1978, No. 272, eff. 9-1-78; renum. from H 78.03, Register, May, 1982, No. 317, eff. 6-1-82.

HSS 178.04 Water supply. (1) **REQUIREMENTS AND DISTANCE TO WATER.** (a) *General.* In all developed camps an adequate supply of pure water shall be furnished for drinking and domestic purposes.

(b) *Community.* When acceptable community water supply and/or public sewerage facilities are available to the premises, connection and use is required. Such systems shall be in accord with the appropriate rules of the department of natural resources.

(c) *Other sources of water supply.* All sources of water supply shall be in accord with the applicable rules of the department of natural resources.

(d) *Disinfection.* Prior to the start of the camping season, the water distribution system should be flushed, disinfected and again flushed. Sources of water supply shall be bacteriologically safe prior to their use.

(2) **OUTLETS.** Supply outlets should preferably be located not more than 300 feet from any camp space.

(3) **VESSELS AND FAUCETS.** No common drinking vessels shall be permitted in any camp, nor shall any drinking water faucets be placed in any toilet room.

(4) **WATERING STATIONS.** Each recreational vehicle parking area shall be provided with one or more easily accessible water supply outlets for filling recreational vehicle water storage tanks. Such water supply outlets shall be protected against the hazard of backflow, back-siphonage and other means of contamination. They shall not be installed at or near a sanitary station.

(5) **INDIVIDUAL WATER CONNECTIONS.** If facilities for individual water service connections are provided, the following shall apply:

(a) Riser pipes shall be located and constructed that they will not be damaged by the reasonable parking of recreational vehicles.

(b) Water riser pipes shall extend at least 18 inches above ground elevation with the outlet downward directed. The pipe size shall be at least ¾-inch.

(c) Adequate provisions shall be made to prevent freezing of service lines, valves and riser pipes.

(d) Underground stop-and-waste valves shall not be installed on any water service.

(e) A valve shall be provided near the outlet and a cap at the outlet of each water service connection. The valves shall be turned to the off position and the outlet capped when not in use. Approved type devices to prevent backflow and back-siphonage shall be provided on all outlets installed after November 1, 1972. They are recommended for all outlets.

(f) All plumbing shall meet the rules in ch. H 62, applicable to campgrounds and camping resorts.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1978, No. 272, eff. 9-1-78; renum. from H 78.04, Register, May, 1982, No. 317, eff. 6-1-82.

HSS 178.05 Toilets. (1) **TYPE AND LOCATION FOR PRIMITIVE CAMPGROUNDS OR AREAS.** Primitive campgrounds not provided with privies or other acceptable type toilet units meeting the requirements of (2), shall have separate designated areas for each sex for toilet use. As a minimum, toilet usage in these campsites shall comprise a slit-trench with earth backfill. Such toilet areas shall not be located within 50 feet of a natural water course or lake, within 50 feet of a well nor within 75 feet of a camp tent or other sleeping or housing arrangement. *sub.*

(2) **TYPE AND LOCATION FOR DEVELOPED CAMPS OR AREAS.** Developed camps shall be provided with separate toilet rooms for each sex. Privies or other acceptable type toilet units are permitted. Such privy or other type toilet unit shall be fly-tight and vermin-proof, and constructed with impervious floors and risers. No privy shall be located within 75 feet of a camp space or other building used for human occupancy. Each toilet shall be enclosed in a separate compartment. Male toilet rooms shall also be provided with individual urinals. See also chs. Ind 51 and 52, Wis. Adm. Code.

(3) **DISTANCE TO TOILET.** Camps shall be so laid out that no camp space in a developed camp shall be located farther than 400 feet from a toilet as required herein. Walkways to such buildings, privies or other acceptable satellite units shall be marked and usable under all weather conditions.

(4) **NUMBER.** The number of toilets shall be established by the total number of camp spaces using the following table. For camps accommodating a large number of spaces one additional toilet for each sex shall be provided for each 75 spaces and one additional men's urinal for each 100 spaces or fraction thereof.

Number Spaces	Toilets		Number, Men Urinals
	Men	Women	
1 to 15.....	1	1	1
16 to 45.....	2	2	1
46 to 100.....	3	4	2

(5) **SELF-CONTAINED RECREATIONAL VEHICLE.** If self-contained recreational vehicles not equipped with a holding tank are allowed camp ac-

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commodations, the water and sewage service connections shall be sealed by insertion of rubber or plastic wedges or a threaded cap.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1978, No. 272, eff. 9-1-78; renun. from H 78.05, Register, May, 1982, No. 317, eff. 6-1-82.

HSS 178.06 Sanitary station. (1) **GENERAL.** (a) *Design.* All camps intending to allow the parking of recreational vehicles having holding tanks shall provide a sanitary station in the ratio of 1 for every 300 camp spaces or fraction thereof. Such sanitary station shall consist of at least a trapped 4-inch sewer riser pipe connected to the camp sanitary sewer system, be surrounded at the inlet end by a concrete apron sloped to the drain, and the riser provided with a suitable hinged cover. A water outlet shall be included to permit sanitary maintenance of the station and be marked: THIS WATER FOR FLUSHING AND CLEANING PURPOSES ONLY. The water outlet hose shall be reel or tower mounted to assure sanitary storage when not in use. A vacuum breaker shall be installed at the highest point on the reel or tower mounting. Sanitary stations shall be separated at least 50 feet from a well and 50 feet from a surface watercourse. Sanitary stations should preferably be screened from other activities by visual barriers such as fences, walls or natural growth.

Note: Sanitary stations are only required at campgrounds and camping resorts developed or expanded after July 1, 1967. They are recommended for all facilities.

(b) *Exemption.* A sanitary station is not required at a facility having 30 or less sites. Users should be provided with directions to the nearest sanitary station.

(2) **SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS.** When available, the sanitary station shall be connected to a municipal sewer. In the absence of a public sewer the required sewage disposal system shall comprise a sewage collection system discharging to a septic tank and soil absorption system. The septic tank and absorption system shall be sized and installed in accordance with s. H 62.20, Wis. Adm. Code.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1978, No. 272, eff. 9-1-78; renun. from H 78.06, Register, May, 1982, No. 317, eff. 6-1-82.

HSS 178.07 Service building. (1) **WHEN DESIRED.** Camps which provide parking areas for dependent recreational vehicles should preferably have a central service building located within a radius of 1000 feet to the spaces to be served.

(2) **FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS.** (a) When a service building is provided, the sanitary fixtures required shall be in accord with the following:

No. of Dependent Recreational Vehicle Parking Spaces	Toilets		Urinals	Lavatories		Showers	
	Men	Women	Men	Men	Women	Men	Women
1 - 15	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
16 - 45	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
46 - 100	3	4	2	3	3	3	3

(b) For parking areas having more than 100 recreational vehicle spaces there shall be provided: 1 additional toilet and lavatory for each sex per each additional 75 camp spaces; 1 additional shower for each sex

per each additional 90 camp spaces; and 1 additional men's urinal per each additional 100 camp spaces.

(c) When a camping area having a service building is operated in connection with a resort, park system or other business establishment, the number of sanitary facilities for such operations shall be in excess of those required in (2) (a) and shall be based on the total number of persons using such facilities.

(3) **SELF-CONTAINED RECREATIONAL VEHICLE CAMPS.** Where a camp is designed for and exclusively limited to use by self-contained recreational vehicles only, the following minimum emergency sanitary facilities shall be required: for each 100 camp spaces, or fraction thereof, there shall be one flush toilet and one lavatory for each sex.

(4) **EXEMPTIONS.** Any person desiring to furnish temporary facilities for accommodating a recreational vehicle rally shall make application for a permit for such activity to the local health officer. The local health officer shall request the consultation of the department prior to the issuance of a permit. The location of the site, the facilities which are provided and the method of conducting such rally shall be acceptable to the local health officer and the department before a special permit shall be issued by the local health officer specifying the location of the site, the period of operation and any other conditions of issuance.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1978, No. 272, eff. 9-1-78; renum. from H 78.07, Register, May, 1982, No. 317, eff. 6-1-82.

HSS 178.08 Solid waste disposal. (1) **DEVELOPED CAMPS.** (a) *General.* At developed camps substantial fly-tight plastic or metal garbage and refuse containers, from which the contents shall be removed and disposed of in a sanitary manner by the camp custodian at least twice weekly between May 1 and October 15, and otherwise weekly, shall be provided for each 2 camp spaces.

(b) *Exemption.* If a properly operated and maintained central collection point system is established, individual containers for each 2 sites need not be provided.

Note: This includes the provision and collection of plastic or other suitable bags or containers.

(2) **PRIMITIVE CAMPS.** At primitive camps, garbage and refuse shall be disposed of each day by burial, covering or burning. It is preferable to compact the material buried as well as the covering soil. The soil cover shall be at least 12 inches. The burial site shall not be subject to inundation by periodic flooding and from which such garbage or refuse is likely to be washed by flood waters into a watercourse.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1978, No. 272, eff. 9-1-78; renum. from H 78.08, Register, May, 1982, No. 317, eff. 6-1-82.

HSS 178.09 Fire protection and safety. The recreational vehicle parking area shall be kept free of litter, rubbish and other flammable materials. Adequate fire protection shall be provided in accordance with local requirements. At least one portable fire extinguisher shall be installed in the developed campground's office or other building on the campgrounds.

Note: The National Fire Protection Association, 60 Batterymarch Street, Boston 10, Massachusetts, has publications of interest to camp owners. These are: Standard for Fire Protec-

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tion in Trailer Courts, No. 501A and Standard for Fire Protection in Mobile Homes and Travel Trailers, No. 501B.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1978, No. 272, eff. 9-1-78; renum. from H 78.09, Register, May, 1982, No. 317, eff. 6-1-82.

HSS 178.10 Management. (1) **GENERAL.** It is the duty of the camp owner or operator, together with any attendants or persons in charge of a camp, to maintain the camp in a clean, orderly and sanitary condition at all times.

(2) **REGISTER.** At developed camps there shall be maintained a register containing the name of the principal camp site occupant and the total number of camp occupants. Such register shall be available to any authorized person who, by duty or official assignment, has the right to the register.

(3) **CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP.** A campground or camping resort owner shall promptly notify the department in writing of his intentions to cease operations and also supply the department with the names and post office addresses of any prospective new operators.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1978, No. 272, eff. 9-1-78; renum. from H 78.10, Register, May, 1982, No. 317, eff. 6-1-82.

HSS 178.11 Responsibility of camp occupants. The camp occupants shall:

(1) Register upon arrival.

(2) Comply with all applicable requirements of this chapter and shall maintain his camp space in a clean and sanitary manner.

(3) Be responsible for proper placement of his recreational vehicle and proper installation of any utility connections in accordance with the instructions of the camp management.

(4) Prohibit pets, if permitted in the camp, to run at large or to commit any nuisance within the limits of any camp space.

(5) Maintain the area surrounding the garbage and refuse containers in a clean and sanitary manner by proper use of the containers and placement of the container cover following addition of wastes to the container.

(6) Abide with the speed limits posted.

(7) Handle and store fuel oil, flammable liquids and petroleum gases in compliance with safe standards for materials of this type.

(8) Comply with the fire protection and safety rules of the camp management, and consider obtaining a fire extinguisher for their personal safety.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1978, No. 272, eff. 9-1-78; renum. from H 78.11, Register, May, 1982, No. 317, eff. 6-1-82.

HSS 178.12 Inspection. All camp spaces and all camps shall be open to inspection at all reasonable hours by representatives of the local and state health agencies.

Note: Camp management can require proof of identification for persons requesting access to the camp register or requesting access to inspect a campground.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1978, No. 272, eff. 9-1-78; renum. from H 78.12, Register, May, 1982, No. 317, eff. 6-1-82.

H 78.13 License fees. History: Cr. Register, August, 1978, No. 272, eff. 9-1-78; r. Register, May, 1982, No. 317, eff. 6-1-82.

HSS 178.14 License. (1) **REQUIREMENT.** Before being opened for public use each campground and camping resort as defined in s. HSS 178.02 (1), shall be licensed by the department or a local government entity. Application for licensure by the department shall be made on forms provided by the department.

(2) **STATE FEES.** The departmental annual fiscal year license fee shall be nonreturnable, nontransferrable and nonprorated as specified in s. 140.05 (17), Stats.

(3) **RESTRICTION.** The department shall not assess license fees for campgrounds and camping resorts if the appropriate local governmental entity (where physically located) enacts an ordinance or promulgates regulations causing payment of an annual local license fee and further providing the following conditions are met by ordinance or regulation enactment and/or activity.

(a) Chapter HSS 178, or similar regulations which are at least as stringent as that chapter in all respects be adopted.

(b) A means for suspension or revocation of the local license be provided.

(c) At least one sanitary survey (inspection) per year be conducted.

(d) Copies of all applicable ordinances or regulations and the name and address of the responsible inspecting official be submitted to the department.

(e) A listing of all campgrounds and camping resorts in its jurisdiction and subject to its regulatory and inspection program be submitted annually during the month of April to the department.

(f) Local governmental entity staff, within 30 days after completing a sanitary survey, submit a copy of that report to the department on forms provided at cost by the department.

(4) **LOCAL FEES.** Local license fees shall be assessed by the appropriate governmental entity. However, should a local governmental entity own and operate a campground or camping resort and conduct a regulatory and inspection program in accord with this section, the fees required by s. 140.05 (21), Stats., shall be considered assessed and paid.

Note: Because of the variety of operating procedures used by local governmental entities, one department, committee, section or other organizational unit may own a facility (s) and staff of another organizational unit may conduct the regulatory and inspection program. In such cases a fee may actually be assessed. Such action is based on local ordinance or resolution content.

(5) **SUPERVISION.** The department shall have the right to separately or jointly conduct sanitary surveys and review all records of local activities at reasonable times and upon reasonable notice. Copies of reports on sanitary surveys conducted by department staff shall be transmitted to the appropriate local authority within 30 days.

(6) **ENFORCEMENT.** (a) Should the department determine that the local regulation and inspection program does not meet the provisions of these regulations, it shall notify the governing body and the responsible inspecting official or agency of the local governmental entity. The local governmental entity shall then revise its regulation and inspection program to comply with these regulations within 60 days. If after that 60 days, the department determines that the local regulations, campgrounds and camping resorts in that local government entity shall be assessed the state license fee for the appropriate state fiscal year to avoid concurrent local and state license fees; and upon expiration of the local license the department shall assume licensure, regulatory and inspection responsibilities.

(b) Should the department determine that a satisfactory program is not being conducted by the local governmental entity because of the lack of a qualified inspector, the department shall after the 60 day period offer that or any other local official an examination designed for state-wide use and relating to all facets of campground and camping resort design and operation. The examination shall be jointly prepared by qualified state and local governmental entity representatives. Should the employe (inspector) achieve a grade of at least 70 on a scale of 100, he or she shall be deemed qualified.

(7) **LOCAL-STATE LICENSE.** If local governmental entities conduct an inspection and regulation program in compliance with these regulations, campgrounds and camping resorts in their jurisdiction shall be deemed licensed by the state under s. 140.05 (17) Stats.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1978, No. 272, eff. 9-1-78; renum. from H 78.14, Register, May, 1982, No. 317, eff. 6-1-82.