

The Recreation Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA)

What is RVIA? The national trade association representing manufacturers and component suppliers producing approximately 98 percent of all RVs and recreational park trailers (RPTs) manufactured in the United States.

Mission Statement: RVIA’s mission is to promote and protect its members and the RV industry by:

- Growing and expanding the RV Market
- Pursuing a favorable business environment for RVIA members
- Promoting the health and wellbeing of RVIA
- Creating a positive RV experience for all consumers
- Providing industry information and knowledge
- Fostering continuous improvement of RV products

What are Recreational Park Trailers? Recreational Park Trailer: A trailer type unit that is primarily designed to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel or seasonal use, that meets the following criteria:

- (a) Built on a single chassis mounted on wheels.
- (b) Having a gross trailer area not exceeding 400 square feet (37.15 sq. m.) in the set-up mode.
- (c) Certified by the manufacturer as complying with ANSI A119.5

RPTs are most often used in recreational vehicle campgrounds. They may be owned by the campground and rented to guests, although many are brought in and used exclusively by their owners on a site rented or leased from the campground. These units are used for recreational purposes only. They are not meant to be permanently affixed to the property, they do not improve property values in any way, and they are neither designed nor intended by their manufacturers to be used as permanent residences. Recreational park trailers are titled and licensed as motor vehicles by the various states.



The Standard on RPTs – ANSI A119.5

How Is It Created? The ANSI A119.5 Standard is developed under the ANSI process. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) is a nonprofit association that establishes procedures and guidelines to create recognized minimum safety standards for products used by both consumers and industry. ANSI sanctions standards that have been created following rigid committee procedures that allow all affected entities a voice in their development. Among the critical issues reviewed by ANSI is

ensuring that all affected entities are represented in the make-up of the committee empowered to establish or revise the Standard such that no interest group can be in a position to dictate the outcome.

RVIA Members Manufacturer Pledge

Manufacturers Build To This Standard Upon joining RVIA, manufacturers or RPTs are required, as a condition of membership, to pledge in writing that they will build RPTs that conform to the ANSI A119.5 Standard. The pledge, in part, reads: “We pledge to produce products in compliance with the ANSI A119.5 Standard and agree to allow initial and ongoing unannounced inspections to verify our pledge.” Failure to comply with this pledge may result in Association membership being revoked, or the manufacturer being subject to disciplinary action following due process, should the manufacturer fail to achieve or maintain the required conformance to the ANSI A119.5 Standard.

All Manufacturers Must Comply with the Following Elements of the RVIA Member’s Certification Process:

- The firm must issue a written public statement to be placed on file with RVIA that it pledges to produce products that conform to the required standards as mandated by the Board of Directors of RVIA.
- The firm must identify a corporate officer or owner as being the firm’s owner/officer responsible for the company’s conformance with the required standards.
- The firm further agrees to abide by the By-Laws of RVIA that provide for a due-process dismissal of the member should the membership pledge be broken.
- The firm must allow the RVIA field inspector access to all of its plants within 1/2 hour of the inspector’s arrival at such plants. In addition, the firm must provide a pool of at least three company representatives, one of which must authorize or accompany the inspector on any inspection of its products and documentation records, as required to confirm the membership pledge. Inspections are unannounced, at the discretion of the RVIA and are at a minimum eight-week frequency.
- The firm agrees to maintain a quality control system and documentation as prescribed by RVIA’s Standards Steering Committee.
- The firm agrees to display the appropriate RVIA seal on each unit it manufactures to indicate its certification of compliance with the required standards.

RVIA Standards Department Inspection Program

RVIA employs a staff of full time professional standards inspectors who conduct unannounced inspection visits to each member manufacturer. The inspector performs an on-line inspection from chassis to final finish, checking representative sample RPT units for compliance with safety-related requirements. Any other RPT units on the premises may also be inspected. When the inspector discovers a violation he documents it on an inspection report explaining the problem. A copy of the report is issued to the inspection contact. Deviations are classified as “A”, “B” or “C” depending on their significance. When serious violations or repeated deviations from the standards are found the manufacturer is given 10 days to respond in writing, detailing what has been done to correct the fault and what steps have been taken to assure the fault will not be repeated. Follow-up unannounced inspections are also conducted to verify compliance. If the manufacturer still fails or refuses to comply, the manufacturer is subject to disciplinary action ranging

from staff imposed probation (which results in more frequent inspections and a re-inspection fee) to expulsion from RVIA.

Minimum Requirements for RVIA’s Quality Control Program

A quality control program must be maintained and must contain the requirements set forth below. A manual shall be prepared outlining how these requirements must be implemented. The word “standard” as used below shall mean the ANSI A119.5 standard for RPTs and the National Electrical Code (NFPA 70) as applicable.

- A person or organization shall be designated who shall have authority and responsibility to enforce the quality program and who shall report to a member of management who has responsibility extending beyond production.
- A system shall be established that provides documentation with respect to drawings, standards, specifications or tests used in connection with compliance with the applicable standard(s).
- Testing as required by the standards shall be performed on each vehicle.
- Check lists shall be employed for each vehicle and shall include all testing required in the applicable standard(s). Each checklist shall contain a description of the vehicle (type and model), vehicle identification number, and date(s) of inspections. The appropriate parts of the checklist shall be signed by the person who has performed the inspection or test; initialing is not acceptable.

Standards Enforcement

Disciplinary Action Should a manufacturer be cited with a repeated A deviation, a twice-repeated B, or a three-time repeated C deviation, the following disciplinary action shall be imposed. The manufacturers may be subject to a probation period, where frequency of inspections is increased. Guidelines are also established for the manufacturer to meet before being returned to a member in good standing. If after the probation period, the manufacturer is still in violation, the manufacturer may be subject to expulsion from RVIA.

State Mandated ANSI A119.5 Compliance Laws and/or agencies of several state governments also have established programs that mandate and monitor RPT Standard compliance for Recreational Park Trailers. These states include: Nebraska, Oregon, and Washington. Additional states by law mandate ANSI A119.5 compliance, but do not maintain an oversight program.

Maintaining The Program

Updates and New Technology Keeping the Standard up to date and insuring that the inspections and enforcement procedures are uniform in their application are two of the primary missions of the RVIA Standards Department. To assist the industry with uniformity, the Association publishes and maintains a Handbook for the ANSI A119.5 Standard that addresses RVIA program positions and gives guidance about Standard compliance. The maintenance of the handbook is based upon a consensus from the various inspecting organizations, both government and third-party. Copies of the Handbook and a subscription to an updating service are available for \$199.00-Member, \$249.00 Non-Member from RVIA at <http://www.rvia.org> and clicking on the RVIA Store.

Displaying The RVIA ANSI A119.5 Seal The Manufacturer's Certification of Compliance

Each manufacturer member of RVIA who meets the requirements of the Standards Inspection Program is granted the right and privilege to display the appropriate RVIA Standards Seal. The seal is an external recognition of the manufacturer's commitment to maintain compliance to the adopted Standards.



What The Seal Represents

120-Volt & 12-Volt Electrical Requirements as specified in Article 552 and other applicable sections of NFPA 70, of the National Electrical Code.

- Ground fault protected receptacles are specified where they are appropriate.
- Only listed electrical fixtures, appliances, equipment and materials that have been labeled by nationally recognized testing agencies are allowed.
- Dielectric tests are performed on the completed unit to determine that the electrical system is installed correctly.

Fuel Systems and Equipment as specified in ANSI A119.5 Standard on RPTs.

- Venting requirements for propane appliances are specified where necessary.
- Propane piping sizes are required to ensure a propane supply that provides for proper appliance performance.
- Over fill protection devices (OPD) are required on all installed propane containers.
- Propane line routing and accessibility - all joints in propane lines must be accessible for periodic leak testing and repair. Lines may not be installed in spaces where a nail or screw could pierce the line.
- Fuel burning appliances must be listed and labeled by a nationally recognized testing agency that has found the product to be suitable for its intended use in RPTs or manufactured homes.

- Sealed combustion and direct venting to the outside is required for all propane appliances, except for gas ranges, to provide for a complete separation of the combustion chamber from the interior atmosphere.
- Each propane system must be tested upon final assembly to determine proper leak-free performance.

Fire & Life Safety Requirements as specified in ANSI A119.5 Standard for RPTs.

- Interior finish flame spread limitations are required.
- Minimum exit facilities providing unobstructed travel to the outside of the vehicle must be available.
- Smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, CO detectors and Propane detectors are mandated based on applicable criteria.

Plumbing Systems as specified in ANSI A119.5 Standard for RPTs.

- Only listed plumbing devices, fixtures and appliances that have been labeled by nationally recognized testing agencies are allowed.
- Water distribution systems are sized to provide adequate flow rate and designed to prevent backflow contamination.
- Fixtures with traps and vents must be provided to protect against siphonage and back pressure.
- Vents to release gases from any waste holding tank must be provided.



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Recreational Park Trailer Standards and Inspection Program Overview with a Description of the Following:

- The RVIA Mission Statement
- Recreational Park Trailer Definition
- Maintenance of ANSI A119.5 Standard
- RVIA Members Manufacturer Pledge
- Standards Department Inspection Program
- Requirements for Quality Control Program
- RVIA Standards Program Enforcement
- What The RVIA Seal Represents

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