

Chapter HSS 178

CAMPGROUNDS

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Note: Chapter H 78 as it existed on August 31, 1978 was repealed and a new chapter H 78 was created effective September 1, 1978.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H 78 was renumbered chapter HSS 178, effected June, 1, 1982; chapter HSS 178 as it existed on October 31, 1985 was repealed and a new chapter HSS 178 was created effective November 1, 1985.

HSS 178.01 Authority and purpose. Section 140.05 (3) and (17), Stats., gives the department authority to prescribe rules for campgrounds, including camping resorts, and to enforce these rules for the purpose of protecting the health and safety of the public.

History: Cr. Register, October, 1985, No. 358, eff. 11-1-85.

HSS 178.02 Scope. (1) **APPLICABILITY.** The provisions of this chapter apply to all operators of campgrounds.

(2) **APPROVED COMPARABLE COMPLIANCE.** When it appears to the department that a requirement of this chapter is impractical for a particular campground, the department may approve a modification in that requirement for that campground if the department is provided with satisfactory proof that the grant of a variance will not jeopardize the health, safety or welfare of the public.

History: Cr. Register, October, 1985, No. 358, eff. 11-1-85.

HSS 178.03 Definitions. In this section:

(1) "Agent" means the city or county designated by the department under s. 50.535 (2), Stats., to issue permits to and make investigations or inspections of campgrounds.

(2) "Approved" means acceptable to the department, based on its determination as to conformance with this chapter and good public health practices.

(3) "Camp site" means a parcel of land in a developed campground for the placement of a single recreational unit and for the exclusive use of its occupants.

(4) "Campground" means a developed campground or camping resort or a primitive campground.

(5) "Camping trailer" means a canvas or folding structure mounted on wheels for use as a temporary dwelling for travel, recreation, vacationing and other uses.

(6) "Department" means the department of health and social services.

(7) "Dependent recreational unit" means a recreational unit that does not have a toilet or a lavatory and therefore depends on camp toilet and lavatory facilities.

(8) "Developed campground" or "camping resort" means any parcel or tract of land with designated sites owned by a person, state or local government, accessible by automobile or other self-propelled vehicle, designed, maintained, intended or used for the purpose of supplying accommodations for overnight use by a recreational unit, open to the public and designated as a developed camp area for temporary camping purposes.

(9) "Motor-home" means a portable, temporary dwelling constructed as an integral part of a self-propelled vehicle and used for travel, recreation and vacationing.

(10) "Operator" means the owner of a campground or a person designated by the owner to manage the campground.

(11) "Permanent structure" means a structure resting on its own foundation and not intended to be part of the mobile recreational vehicle as it is in transit.

(12) "Person" means an individual, partnership, association, firm, company, corporation or agency, whether tenant, owner, lessee, licensee, or the agent, heir or assignee of any of these.

(13) "Pick-up coach" means a portable, temporary dwelling designed to be mounted on a truck chassis for travel, recreation, vacationing and other uses.

(14) "Primitive campground" means any parcel or tract of land owned by a person, state or local government and maintained, intended or used for the purpose of supplying overnight camping accessible by canoe, boat or by hiking but not by campers' motor vehicles.

(15) "Privy" means a structure not connected to a plumbing system, which is used by persons for the disposition of human body wastes.

(16) "Recreational unit" or "recreational vehicle" means a camping trailer, motor home, pick-up coach, tent or travel trailer.

(17) "Recreational unit parking area" means a parcel of land in which 2 or more spaces are occupied or intended for occupancy by recreational units for transient dwelling purposes.

(18) "Sanitary facilities" means toilets, showers and handwashing facilities.

(19) "Sanitary station" means a facility connected to approved sewerage, and designed for receiving waste from recreational unit holding tanks.

(20) "Self-contained recreational unit" means a recreational unit that can operate independently of connections to sewer, water and electrical systems, and that contains a water-flushed toilet, a handwashing facility, a shower and a kitchen sink, all of which are connected to water storage and sewage holding tanks located within the recreational unit.

(21) "Service building" means a structure housing toilets, handwashing facilities and showers.

(22) "Tent" means a portable lodging of canvas or strong cloth stretched and sustained by poles.

(23) "Total site area" means the area used for camp sites and related space and facilities and other improvements required by this chapter.

(24) "Travel trailer" means a vehicular, portable structure built on a chassis and on wheels, having an maximum area of 400 sq. ft. and used as a temporary dwelling for travel, recreation, vacation or other uses and towed by a car, station wagon or truck. It includes units with a fifth-wheel type of hitch.

(25) "Waste water" means liquid and water-carried wastes from recreational units.

History: Cr. Register, October, 1985, No. 358, eff. 11-1-85.

HSS 178.04 Permit. (1) **APPLICATION.** Before a campground is opened for public use, the operator shall obtain a permit from the department or an agent of the department. Application for a permit shall be made on a form provided by the department or its agent.

Note: To obtain a copy of the application form for a permit to operate a campground or to determine which agent to contact for an application form, write: Bureau of Environmental Health, P.O. Box 309, Madison, Wisconsin 53701.

(2) **ACTION BY THE DEPARTMENT.** Within 30 days after receiving a completed application for a permit, the department shall either approve the application and issue a permit or deny the application. If the application for a permit is denied, the department shall give the applicant reasons, in writing, for the denial. A permit may not be issued to the operator of a new campground or to the new operator of an existing campground without prior inspection of the campground by the department or its agent to ensure that the campground complies with this chapter.

History: Cr. Register, October, 1985, No. 358, eff. 11-1-85.

HSS 178.05 Plan approval. The operator shall submit plans, specifications and calculations for a new or expanded campground to the department for examination and approval before commencing construction or modification. No change in plans or specifications which involves any provision of this chapter may be made unless the change is approved and dated by the department.

Note: It is recommended that owners or operators consult the department of industry, labor and human relations (DILHR) as well as local building and zoning regulations before commencing construction or modification.

History: Cr. Register, October, 1985, No. 358, eff. 11-1-85.

HSS 178.06 Location. Every camp site and facility in the total site area shall be located on a well drained site not subject to flooding by flowing or ponding surface water resulting from snow melt or precipitation occurring during the occupancy and use of camp sites. The premises shall be properly graded 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 site or provided facility may be located in an area

that is situated so that drainage from any source of filth can be deposited on the camp site or facility area or adjoining property.

Note: The location of camp sites and provided facilities with regard to flood plains must meet all the requirements of the department of natural resources. See NR 116.13 (2) (c).

History: Cr. Register, October, 1985, No. 358, eff. 11-1-85.

HSS 178.07 Physical layout. (1) **SITE DESIGNATION.** Each camp site shall be clearly designated and numbered for the purpose of identification.

(2) **SEPARATION BETWEEN RECREATIONAL UNITS.** Recreational units shall be separated from each other and from other structures by at least 10 feet, except where a camp site has been developed to accommodate 2 recreational units. Any accessory structures such as attached awnings, unattached carports or storage facilities shall, for purposes of this separation requirement, be considered to be part of the recreational unit. A recreational unit may not be placed on a permanent foundation and may not be attached to a permanent structure.

(3) **DENSITY.** Density may not exceed 20 total sites per acre except that:

(a) Campgrounds which on the effective date of this chapter have a permit to operate with a density in excess of 20 total sites per acre may continue to be approved with that density unless the department determines that permitting the campground to operate with a density in excess of 20 total sites endangers the health and safety of campers; and

(b) The department may under special circumstances permit a higher density provided that the public's health and safety are protected.

Note: An example of special circumstances that might justify a greater density is a recreational vehicle rally.

(4) **RECREATION AREA.** Recreation areas shall be free of health and safety hazards. If playground equipment is provided, it shall be maintained in good repair.

(5) **SETBACKS FROM PUBLIC STREETS.** No recreational unit may be located closer than 25 feet from the right of way of any public street or highway or any parking area abutting upon a public street or highway.

(6) **CAMPGROUND STREET SYSTEM.** (a) *General requirements.* Parking areas shall provide safe and convenient vehicular access from abutting public streets or roads to each camp site. 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 a camp site shall be designed to minimize congestion and hazards at the entrance and exit and allow free movement on adjacent streets. All traffic into or out of parking areas shall be through designated entrances and exits.

(c) *Internal roads.* Roadways within the campgrounds shall be wide enough to accommodate anticipated traffic and shall meet the following minimum requirements for width:

1. One-way, no parking, 11 feet;
2. One-way, parking on one side only, 18 feet;