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## **4.0 Regulation Governing Recreational Vehicle Campgrounds**

Mississippi State Department of Health  
Post Office Box 1700  
Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1700

November 2000  
Form No. 318

# Mississippi State Department of Health

## 4.0 Regulation Governing Recreational Vehicle Campgrounds

### 4.1 Purpose

The purpose of this regulation is to establish minimum design/construction standards regarding sanitary facilities, and to establish requirements for persons engaged in the operation of Recreational Vehicle Campgrounds (RV Campgrounds).

### 4.2 Authority

The State Board of Health is authorized to promulgate these rules under and by virtue of Section 41-3-17 and Section 41-25-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated.

### 4.3 Definitions

- (1) Department - shall mean the Mississippi State Department of Health.
- (2) Department of Environmental Quality - shall mean the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control.
- (3) Health Authority - shall mean an authorized representative of the Mississippi State Department of Health.
- (4) Non Self-Contained Unit - shall mean a recreational vehicle which does not have a flush toilet, bathtub or shower, handwashing compartment, and internal storage compartments of potable water supply and sewage holding.
- (5) Permit - shall mean a written permit issued by the Agency permitting the campground to operate under this regulation.
- (6) Person - shall mean any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, or governmental unit.
- (7) Recreational Vehicle - shall mean a vehicular-type unit designed as living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use, which either has its own motive power or is mounted on or towed by another vehicle. The basic entities include, but are not limited to a travel trailer, camping trailer, truck camper, van, and motor home.

- (8) Recreational Vehicle Campground - shall mean any parcel or tract of land under the control of any person, organization, or governmental entity wherein sites are offered for the use of the public or members of an organization for the establishment of living sites for two or more recreational vehicles.
- (9) Recreational Vehicle Lodging Park - shall mean a recreational vehicle campground with approved water and sewer connections provided to each living site for the accommodation of “self-contained unit” recreational vehicle parking.
- (10) Recreational Vehicle Waste Disposal Station - shall mean a properly designed facility used for receiving and disposing of liquid wastes from recreational vehicle holding tanks.
- (11) Self-Contained Unit - shall mean a recreational vehicle which has a flush toilet, bathtub or shower, handwashing compartment, and internal storage compartments of potable water supply and sewage holding.
- (12) Sewered - shall mean a living site within a campground that is provided an individual sewer drop (connection) to a central collection and disposal sanitary sewer system.
- (13) Unsewered - shall mean a living site within a campground that is not provided an individual sewer drop (connection) to a central collection and disposal sanitary sewer system

## **4.4 Permits**

### **1. General Provisions**

It shall be unlawful for any person to maintain, or operate any recreational vehicle campground within the State of Mississippi unless he/she holds a valid permit issued annually by the Department in the name of such person for the specific campground. All applications for permits shall be made, prior to any construction of the campground, to the applicable county health department which shall issue a permit only after a final inspection of the completed RV campground has indicated all requirements of the regulations are met. No permit shall be transferable from one location to another location or from one person to another person.

Every person holding such a permit shall give notice in writing to the Department within 48 hours after having sold, transferred, given away, or otherwise disposed of interest in

or control of any recreational vehicle campground. Such notice shall include the name and address of the person succeeding to the ownership or control of such campground.

2. **Plan Submittal**

A complete plan for the purpose of obtaining a new permit to be issued by the Department shall show:

- a. A vicinity map showing the general location of the campground.
- b. The area and dimensions of the tract of land.
- c. The number, location, and size of all camping sites and their designated usage.
- d. The location and width of roadways.
- e. The location of all service buildings and other proposed structures.
- f. The location, size, slope and other applicable data on water and sewer lines.

3. **Application for Permits**

- a. Application for new permits shall be in triplicate on forms provided by the Department, signed by the applicant, and shall contain the following:
  - i. The name, address, and telephone number of the applicant.
  - ii. The interest of the applicant in and the location and legal description of the campground.
  - iii. A complete plan of the campground, showing compliance with all applicable provisions of this regulation.
  - iv. Such further information as may be requested by the Department to enable it to determine that the proposed campground will comply with legal requirements.
- b. It shall be unlawful for any person to construct a RV campground until the local health authority has approved the application, including the plans/specifications of the proposed campground.

- c. Application for renewal of permits shall be made as above by the holder of the permit and shall contain the following:
  - i. Any change in the information submitted since the time the original permit was issued or the latest renewal granted.
  - ii. Such other information as the Agency may require.

#### 4. **Permit Hearings**

Any person, whose application for a permit under this regulation has been denied, may request and shall be granted a hearing on the matter before the health authority under the procedure provided by Section 4.6 of this regulation.

#### 5. **Notices**

Whenever, upon inspection of any recreational vehicle campground, the health authority finds that conditions or practices exist which are in violation of any provision of this regulation, the health authority shall give notice in writing in accordance with Item 4.6 (1.) to the owner or agent that, unless such conditions or practices are corrected within a reasonable period of time specified in the notice by the health authority, the permit will be suspended. At the end of such period, the health authority shall reinspect such campground and, if such conditions or practices have not been corrected, shall suspend the permit and give notice in writing of such suspension to the owner or agent. Upon receipt of such notice of suspension, such person shall cease to accept new occupants in such campground.

#### 6. **Permit Suspension**

Any person whose permit has been suspended, or who has received notice from the health authority that his/her permit will be suspended unless certain conditions or practices at the campground are corrected, may request and shall be granted a hearing on the matter before the health authority, under the procedures provided by Section 4.6(2.) of this regulation. If no hearing is requested, the permit shall be automatically revoked 10 days following the day on which notice of suspension was served.

### **4.5 Inspection of Campgrounds**

#### 1. **General**

The health authority shall make inspections to determine the condition of recreational

vehicle campgrounds in order that he/she may perform his/her duty of safeguarding the health and safety of occupants of campgrounds and of the general public.

2. **Right of Entry**

The health authority shall have the power to enter at reasonable times upon any private or public property for the purpose of inspecting and investigating conditions relating to the enforcement of this regulation.

It shall be the duty of the owners or occupants of the campgrounds, or of the person in charge thereof, to give the health authority free access to such premises at reasonable times for the purpose of inspection.

## **4.6 Notices, Hearings, and Orders**

1. **Notices**

Whenever the health authority determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe that there has been a violation of any provision of this regulation, he/she shall give notice of such alleged violation to the owner or agent of the campground, as hereinafter provided. Such notice shall:

- a. Be in writing.
- b. Include a statement of the reasons for its issuance.
- c. Allow a reasonable time for the performance of any act it requires.
- d. Be served upon the owner or his/her agent as the case may require, provided such notice or order shall be deemed to have been properly served upon such owner or agent when a copy of the inspection report form or other notice has been delivered personally to the permit holder or person in charge, or such notice has been sent by registered mail to his/her last known address, or when he/she has been served with such notice by any other method authorized or required by the laws of this state.
- e. Contain an outline of remedial action, which, if taken, will effect compliance with the provisions of this regulation.

2. **Hearings**

Any person affected by any notice which has been issued in connection with the enforcement of any provision of this regulation may request and shall be granted a hearing on the matter before the health authority. Such person shall file in the office of the health authority a written petition requesting such hearing and setting forth a brief statement on the grounds therefor. Upon receipt of such petition, the health authority shall set a time and place for such hearing, and the petitioner shall be given an opportunity to be heard and to show why such notice should be modified or withdrawn. The hearing shall be commenced not later than 10 days after the day on which the petition was filed. However, upon application of the petition, the health authority may postpone the date of the hearing for a reasonable time beyond such 10-day period when in his/her judgment the petitioner has submitted good and sufficient reasons for such postponement.

3. **Orders**

After such hearing, the health authority shall make findings as to compliance with the provisions of this regulation and shall issue an order in writing sustaining, modifying, or withdrawing the notice which shall be served as provided in Item 4.6(d). Upon failure to comply with any order sustaining or modifying a notice, the permit of the campground affected by the order shall be revoked. Revoked permits may not be reissued, but a new permit may be issued if all requirements of this regulation are met.

4. **Emergency Situations**

Whenever the health authority finds that an emergency exists which requires immediate action to protect the public health, he/she may, without notice or hearing, issue an order citing the existence of such an emergency and requiring that such action be taken as he/she may deem necessary to meet the emergency, including the suspension of the permit. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this regulation, such order shall be effective immediately. Any person to whom such an order is directed shall comply therewith immediately, but upon petition to the health authority shall be afforded a hearing as provided in Item 4.6(2). The provisions of Items 4.6(3) and 4.6(4) shall be applicable to such hearing and the order issued thereafter.

5. **Notice of Revocation**

When a permit to operate a recreational vehicle campground has been revoked, the health authority shall notify all occupants of the revocation.





## **4.7 Location, Space, and General Layout**

### **1. Location**

The campground shall be located on a well-drained site and shall be reasonably free from marshes, swamps, or other potential breeding places for insects or rodents.

### **2. Space Requirements**

Each camping site shall contain a minimum of 1,000 square feet and shall be a minimum of 50 feet in length and a minimum of 20 feet in width. Roadways shall not be included in the calculation of the camp site space requirements.

The campground area shall be large enough to satisfactorily accommodate:

- a. The designated number of each type of camping sites proposed.
- b. Necessary streets, roadways, and parking areas.

## **4.8 Water Supply**

### **1. General**

- a. In all recreational vehicle campgrounds, a pressurized water system, adequate to serve all anticipated needs, shall be provided.
- b. Water supplies shall meet all current requirements of the Department. They shall be properly located, constructed, and protected to exclude surface contamination and to minimize the potential of contamination from sanitary hazards. All portions of the water system located in the campground shall be easily accessible for maintenance. The ownership of all portions of the water system serving the campground shall be made a matter of record to the Department.

### **2. Plan Review**

For all proposed new recreational vehicle campgrounds with 15 or more campsites, the water systems shall comply with the Mississippi State Board of Health Regulation

Governing Public Water Systems. Plans and specifications for such water systems must be submitted to and approved by the Bureau of Water Supply, Mississippi State Department of Health prior to the beginning of construction of the campground.

Water systems serving recreational vehicle campgrounds with no more than 14 campsites must meet all of the requirements of the health authority. Plans and specifications for such water systems must be submitted to, and approved by the local county health department.

### 3. **Public Water Supplies**

If a proposed recreational vehicle campground is to be located in a municipality which has a public water system or in the certificated area of an existing community water system or sanitary district, the campground must be served by the existing public system if, in the opinion of the Department, the existing public system can provide an adequate supply of water.

### 4. **Construction Procedures**

- a. The water system of the campground shall be connected to all comfort stations and service buildings and will include a method of protection against the hazards of backflow and back-siphonage.
- b. All water piping shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with state and local codes and regulations. The water piping system shall not be connected with nonpotable or questionable water supplies, and shall be protected against the hazards of backflow or back-siphonage by an approved device or method. All plastic pipe used must bear the NSF (National Sanitation Foundation) seal of approval.
- c. Where drinking fountains are provided for public use, they shall be of a type and in locations approved by the health authority.
- d. Individual water service connections which are provided for direct use by recreational vehicles shall be so constructed that they will not be damaged by the parking of vehicles. The individual water supply connections shall be so designed and constructed as to prevent backflow or back-siphonage. A minimum of 30 inches of cover shall be maintained over all underground water lines. The campground water system shall be adequate to provide a minimum of 20 pounds per square inch of pressure at all outlets under peak flow conditions.

- e. Underground stop-and-waste cocks shall not be installed on any connection.
- f. Individual service connections shall be constructed so as to protect the line from contamination by ground water.

5. **Outlets**

Water outlets shall be convenient of access and when not piped to individual campsites, shall not be located farther than 500 feet from any site. Each sewered site must have a water outlet located within 15 feet. Provisions shall be made to prevent accumulations of standing water or the creation of muddy conditions at each water outlet.

6. **Recreational Vehicle Watering Stations**

- a. A watering station, if provided, for filling recreational vehicle water tanks shall be located at least 50 feet from a waste disposal station. When such is provided, adjacent to the potable water outlet, there shall be posted a sign of durable material, not less than 2 feet by 2 feet in size, and inscribed thereon in clearly legible letters shall be: **"POTABLE WATER, NOT TO BE USED FOR FLUSHING WASTE TANKS."**
- b. The potable water supply station shall be protected from backflow and back-siphonage. by means of an approved device located downstream from the last shutoff valve.

## 4.9 Sewage Disposal

1. **General Provisions**

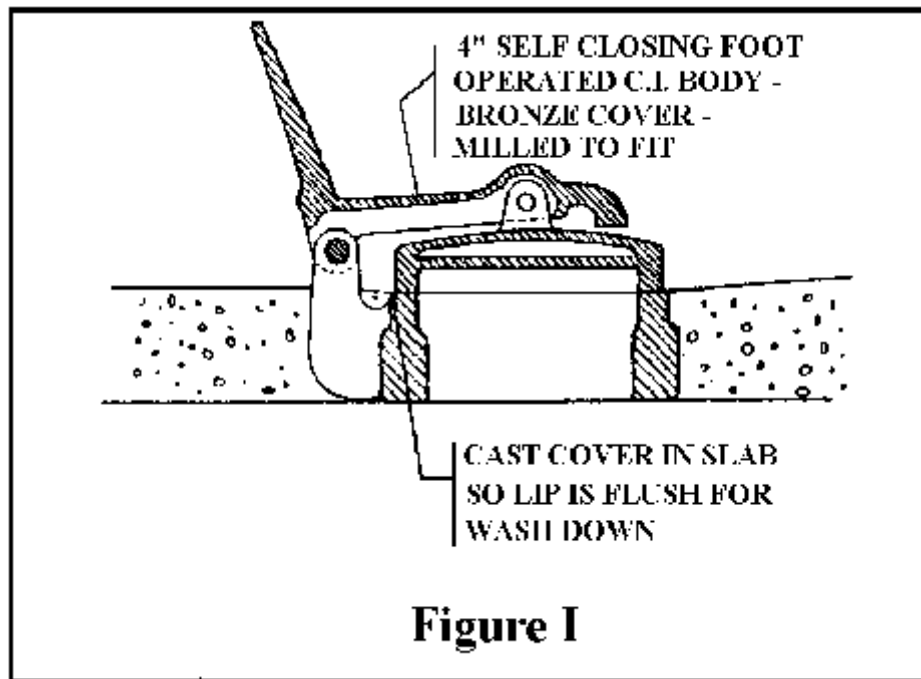
All sewage and other liquid wastes generated within a campground shall be disposed of in accordance with the Mississippi State Board of Health Regulations Governing Individual Onsite Wastewater Disposal Systems and/or Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control regulations. The proposed method of sewage disposal shall have the approval of the appropriate authority prior to the commencement of any construction and shall comply with all appropriate state laws and regulations.

2. **Recreational Vehicle Waste Disposal Stations**

- a. In all recreational vehicle campgrounds, a minimum of one recreational vehicle waste disposal station shall be provided for each 50 recreational vehicle stands,

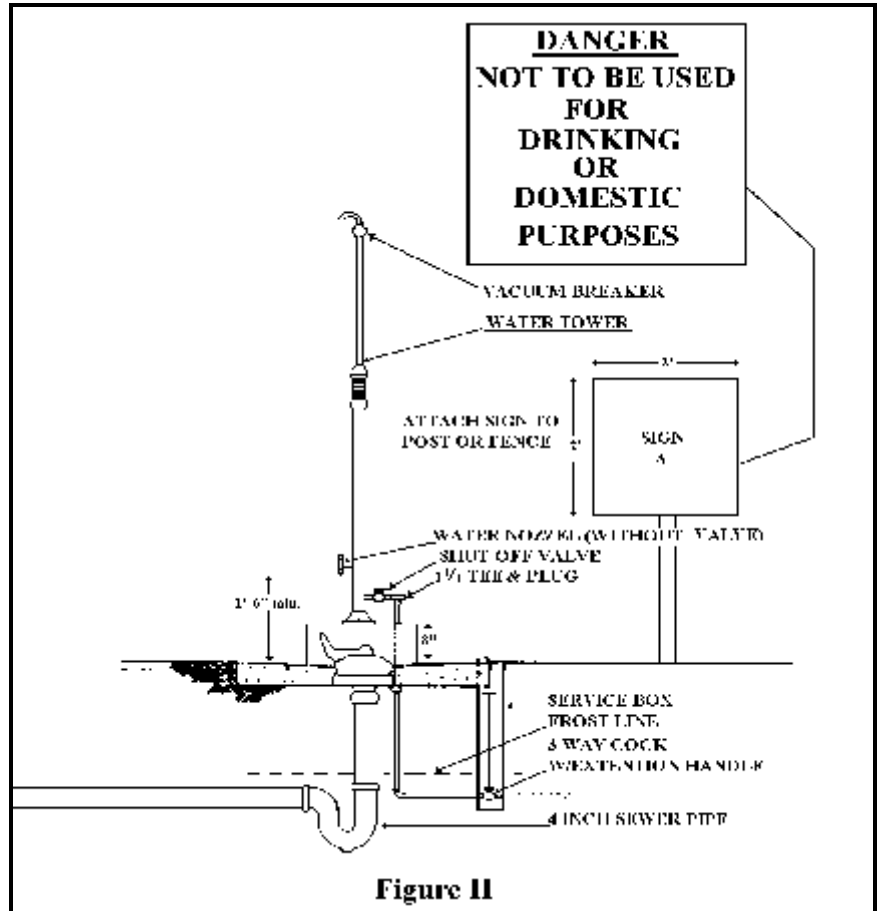
or part thereof, which are not equipped with individual sewer connections.

- b. Each station shall be level, convenient of access from the service road, and shall provide easy ingress and egress for recreational vehicles.
- c. Construction of Waste Disposal Stations
  - i. Unless other approved means are used, each station shall have a concrete slab with drain inlet located so as to be on the road (left) side of the recreational vehicle.
  - ii. The slab shall be not less than 3 feet by 3 feet, at least 5 inches thick and properly reinforced, the surface of which is troweled to a smooth finish and sloped from each side inward to a sewer inlet.
  - iii. The sewer inlet shall consist of a 4-inch, self-closing foot-operated hatch of approved material with cover milled to fit [Figure I]. The hatch body shall be set in the concrete of the slab with the lip of the opening flush with its surface to facilitate the cleansing of the slab with water. The hatch shall be properly connected to a sewer inlet which shall discharge to an approved sanitary sewage disposal facility.



d. Flushing Facilities

- i. At all waste disposal stations a means for flushing the recreational vehicle holding tank and the slab shall be provided. It shall consist of a piped supply of water under pressure, terminating in a valved outlet located and installed as to minimize damage by automobiles or recreational vehicles. The flushing device shall consist of a properly supported riser terminating at least 2 feet above the ground surface, with a 3/4-inch valved outlet to which is screwed a flexible hose [Figure II].
- ii. The water supply to the flushing device shall be protected from backflow and back-siphonage, and be equipped with a retractable, spring coiled water delivery device.
- ii. Adjacent to the flushing arrangement there shall be posted a sign of durable material, not less than 2 feet by 2 feet in size, and inscribed thereon in clearly legible letters shall be: **"DANGER - NOT TO BE USED FOR DRINKING OR DOMESTIC PURPOSES."**



## **4.10 Solid Waste Disposal**

All solid waste generated by occupants of the campground shall be stored in a manner approved by the health authority. The disposal of solid waste generated in the campground is the responsibility of the campground owner and shall comply with all appropriate state laws and regulations.

## **4.11 Supervision**

The person to whom a permit for a campground is issued shall at all times operate the campground in compliance with this regulation and shall provide adequate supervision to maintain the campground, its facilities, and equipment in good repair and in a clean and sanitary condition at all times.

## **4.12 Sanitary Conveniences**

### **1. Toilet and Shower Facilities**

- a. Comfort stations shall be provided at one or more locations in every recreational vehicle campground. They shall be convenient of access and shall be located within 500 feet from any campsite not provided with water and sewer connections.
- b. If facilities for both males and females are housed within the same structure, they shall be separated and appropriately marked.
- c. All doors to the exterior shall open outward, be self-closing, and shall be screened by means of a vestibule or wall to prevent direct view of the interior when the exterior doors are open. Such screening shall not be required on single unit toilet buildings.
- d. The interior finish of walls shall be moisture resistant for their entire height to facilitate washing and cleaning.
- e. The floors shall be constructed of material impervious to water and shall be easily cleanable. A floor drain shall be provided in the toilet room.
- f. All rooms shall be adequately lighted and well ventilated, with all openings effectively screened.
- g. Facilities shall be provided to adequately supply hot water to all showers and



lavatories during times of peak demand.

**2. Number, Location and Arrangement of Toilets, Urinals, Lavatories, and Showers**

- a. All recreational vehicle campgrounds shall be provided with flush toilets. Recreational Vehicle Lodging Parks accepting only self-contained units are exempt from providing toilet and bathhouse accommodations.
- b. Facilities shall be provided as follows:
  - i. A minimum of 1 toilet, 1 lavatory, and 1 shower for each sex shall be provided for each 15 unsewered campsites up to the first 30 such campsites. For each additional thirty unsewered sites or less, an additional toilet, lavatory, and shower shall be provided for each sex.
  - ii. A minimum of 1 toilet, 1 lavatory and 1 shower for each sex shall be provided for each 50 sewerer campsites.
  - iii. In recreational vehicle campgrounds, urinals shall be substituted for one-third of the toilets required in the men's facilities. Only individual stalls or wall-hung urinals shall be acceptable.
- c. Each toilet shall be in a separate compartment and shall be provided with a door with a latch for privacy and a holder or dispenser for toilet paper. Dividing walls or partitions shall be at least 5 feet high and shall be separated from the floor by a space not greater than 18 inches.
- d. Toilet compartments shall not be less than 30 inches in width and there shall be not less than 30 inches of clear space in front of each toilet.

**3. Showers**

- a. Each shower provided shall be of the individual type, be screened from view, and be not less than 36 inches by 36 inches in area. Each shower area shall be designed to minimize the flow of water into the dressing area and shall be properly connected to the sewerage system by means of a trapped inlet.
- b. A dressing area, equivalent to a minimum of 9 square feet per shower, shall be provided. Each dressing area shall be equipped with a minimum of two clothing hooks per shower.

- c. The floors of showers and dressing areas shall have an impervious skid-resistant surface.

### **4.13 Exemptions**

1. All organized campgrounds holding a valid license from the Mississippi State Department of Health, issued under Sections 75-74-1 et. sec., Mississippi Code of 1972 (Mississippi Youth Camp Safety and Health Law) and deer camps regulated under Section 49-7-39 Mississippi Code of 1972 are exempt from this regulation.
2. Section 4.7(2) of this regulation will be waived for all recreational vehicle parks existing prior to the original July 13, 1983 enactment of this regulation that provide water and sewer service from systems that have been approved or permitted by the Mississippi State Department of Health or Department of Environmental Quality .
3. Any parcel or tract of land wherein living sites are available only for the private use of family members.
4. Fairgrounds and stadiums that allow parking of recreational vehicles for short-term events such as fairs, festivals and ball games shall not be defined as a campground and shall be exempt from this regulation.
5. Recreational vehicle dealers, providing factory authorized service and/or repair with, five (5) or fewer overnight parking facilities for customers seeking such repair/service shall be exempt from this regulation.

### **4.14 Penalties**

In accordance with Section 41-25-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, violation of this regulation is a misdemeanor. Each day on which a violation thereof continues is a separate offense.

### **4.15 Unconstitutionality Clause**

Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this regulation be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, the remainder shall not be affected thereby.

## **Certification of Regulation**

This is to certify the regulation **Recreational Vehicle Campground Sanitation** was adopted by the Mississippi State Board of Health on July 13, 1983. This was amended and adopted by the Mississippi State Board of Health on October 11, 2000 as the Regulation Governing Recreational Vehicle Campgrounds.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary and Executive Officer