

MAY 2026

CANADIAN CAMPING & RV INDUSTRY DEFINITIONS

Canadian Recreational Vehicle Association
Recreation Vehicle Dealer's Association of Canada
Canadian Camping and RV Association



CANADIAN CAMPING
AND RV ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
DU CAMPING ET DU VR



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THE NATIONAL VOICE FOR CANADA'S CAMPGROUNDS

MISSION

To provide for the betterment and support of the Canadian camping and recreational vehicle industry through collaboration, education, advocacy, and research.

VISION

To lead a thriving and vibrant Canadian camping and recreational vehicle industry.

GOALS

- Advocacy
- Education
- Member Benefits and Support
- Research
- Organizational Health & Governance



Contents

- Intent
- Campground
- Recreational Vehicle
- Motor Home
- Travel Trailer
- Fifth Wheel Trailer
- Truck Camper
- Folding Camping Trailer
- Destination Trailer
- Park Model Trailer
- Manufactured Home (Mobile Home)
- Factory Built Buildings

Intent

UNIFYING INDUSTRY DEFINITIONS TO FOSTER GROWTH AND SAFETY IN THE CANADIAN RV SECTOR

The collaboration between the Canadian Camping and RV Association, the Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association of Canada, and the Canadian Recreational Vehicle Association aims to unify industry definitions to address ongoing misconceptions regarding regulatory compliance within the industry. By establishing clear and consistent definitions, these organizations seek to ensure that all stakeholders, including officials, the industry, and the general public, have a comprehensive understanding of the standards and safety measures inherent in RV and camping products and services. This initiative is crucial in highlighting the recreational nature of RVs, emphasizing that these vehicles and associated services are designed to meet consumers' leisure needs rather than serve as permanent residences. Clear definitions will enhance consumer safety by ensuring that all products meet established regulatory requirements, thus fostering greater trust and reliability within the market.

The effort to standardize industry definitions is essential for operators who frequently face challenges related to zoning and regulatory compliance. Misunderstandings about the intended use of RVs often lead to conflicts with county regulations and zoning laws, complicating business operations for RV dealers, manufacturers, and campsite operators. By articulating that RVs are not intended for full-time accommodation, these associations aim to alleviate regulatory pressures and create a more stable operational environment. This unified stance will help in garnering support for more favourable regulations that reflect the true nature of the RV industry, ultimately supporting the growth and sustainability of the sector. With a clearer understanding of the industry's commitment to regulatory compliance, the red tape challenges and other barriers to new developments or expansions can be more effectively navigated, positively impacting the prospects for growth and allowing for more strategic and efficient deployment of new projects.

Campground

A recreational facility that offers **temporary** or **seasonal** access to the vacationing and traveling public.



Campsite Occupancy: A Campsite is equipped for tents, recreational vehicles, ready to camp or temporary roofed accommodations for a set rate.



Intent of Use: A Campground is used for recreational purposes only and does not offer site use agreements for the purpose of principal/permanent residential occupancy.



Services within a Campground: A Campground may offer a variety of services to guests that support the recreational nature of their business and facilitate on site, non-use storage of recreational vehicles.

Recreational Vehicle

A vehicle or slide-in camper that is designed to provide temporary living, sleeping, or eating accommodation for travel, vacation, seasonal camping, or recreational use and designed to be driven, towed, transported, or relocated from time to time whether or not the vehicle is jacked up or its running gear is removed, and with a size as defined and published by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA). Recreational vehicles include motorhomes, travel trailers, fifth-wheel travel trailers, destination trailers, truck campers, tent trailers or park model trailers, and similar mobile vehicles.

Designed for temporary living, a recreational vehicle must not be used as a principle place of residence of the occupant. For this reason, manufactured homes and tiny homes cannot be categorized as recreational vehicles.



Motor Home

A Recreational Vehicle that is self-propelled which includes vehicles described as “Class A”, “Class B” and “Class C” and which are manufactured to the CSA Z240 RV series or NFPA 1192 standard.



Travel Trailer

A Recreational Vehicle mounted on wheels and designed to be towed by a motorized vehicle that is constructed with a roof and sidewalls made of rigid materials and which are manufactured to the CSA Z240 RV series or NFPA 1192 standard.



Fifth Wheel Travel Trailer

A Recreational Vehicle mounted on wheels and designed to be towed by a motorized vehicle by means of a towing mechanism that is mounted above or forward of the tow vehicle's rear axle and which is manufactured to the CSA Z240 RV series or NFPA 1192 standard.



Truck Camper

A Recreational Vehicle designed to be loaded on and unloaded from the bed of a pickup truck and manufactured to the CSA Z240 RV series or NFPA 1192 standard.



Folding Camping Trailer

A Recreational Vehicle mounted on wheels and designed to be towed by a motorized vehicle that is constructed with a collapsible roof and collapsible partial sidewalls that unfold and extend in the set-up mode and fold back up for travel and which are manufactured to the CSA Z240 RV series or NFPA 1192 standard.



Destination Trailer

A Recreational Vehicle mounted on wheels and designed to be towed by a motorized vehicle that is constructed with a roof and sidewalls made of rigid materials. The overall width shall not exceed 2.6 m (8.5 ft), when the vehicle is folded or stowed for transit, where the width is the sum of the distances from the vehicle centreline to the outermost projections on each side.



Park Model Trailer

A Recreational Vehicle that meets the following criteria:

- a) it is built on a single chassis mounted on wheels;
- b) it is designed to facilitate relocation from time to time;
- c) it is designed as living quarters for seasonal camping and may be connected to those utilities necessary for operation of installed fixtures and appliances; and
- d) it has a gross floor area, not exceeding 50 m² when in the set-up mode, and has a width greater than 2.6 m in the transit mode, *and prohibits lofts.*

A Park Model Trailer is manufactured in accordance with CAN/CSA Z241 Series Park Model Trailers.



Manufactured Home (Mobile Home)

A single or multiple-section one-storey dwelling that is designed and constructed for year-round occupancy, constructed in a factory, transported to the installation site, and ready for occupancy on completion of set-up in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions. A manufactured home must comply with CSA Z240 MH Series Manufactured Homes in jurisdictions where it is referenced or recognized for compliance with local requirements.



Factory Built Buildings

Factory built buildings (including manufactured homes) intended for residential occupancy must comply with all appropriate Code requirements. Only those building components that are designed and constructed in manufacturing plants in accordance with the specified standards (CSA Z240.2.1, CSA Z240.10.1 and CSA A277 Procedure for certification of prefabricated buildings, modules, and panels) are deemed to comply with the Code.

Building components designed and constructed outside the place of manufacture (e.g. masonry chimneys, basement stairs, foundations etc.) must conform to the requirements of the Code. The code also applies to the site installation of manufactured buildings in terms of tie downs, spatial separation, grading, plumbing connections to street services, etc.





The Canadian Recreational Vehicle Association (CRVA) is a non-profit organization comprised of leading Recreational Vehicle Manufacturers and Suppliers of the components that go into Recreational Vehicles sold in Canada. CRVA has been in existence for 50 years and works continually to promote all aspects pertaining to the quality and safety in the RVs built by its member companies.

CRVA works closely with the RV Industry Association and with accredited companies to develop the standards and codes designed specifically for Recreational Vehicles with a mandate to ensure that professional standards are maintained in the best interests and safety of the consumer.



The Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association (RVDA) of Canada is a national, volunteer federation of provincial and regional RVDA associations and their members who have united to form a professional trade association for all businesses involved in the recreation vehicle industry.

The core objective of the RVDA of Canada is to bring together and represent the retail businesses involved in the recreation vehicle industry across Canada, thus providing the support and strength to protect and promote the interests and welfare of Canadian RV Dealers, and to maximize the potential of the industry for all involved.



The Canadian Camping and RV Association provides members with the services and support that RV Parks and Campgrounds need to be successful, while helping to promote the growth and development of the industry. This is accomplished through Member promotion, economic impact research, exclusive cost-saving programs, legislative advocacy and Industry representation with all levels of government in Canada.

By uniting Canadian Camping and RV Association Campground owners with Industry Partners RVDA of Canada, Canadian Recreational Vehicle Association and Go RVing Canada, we are able to work together to grow the industry and secure the future success of our members.



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