

**RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR  
LICENSING OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

[R23-21-RF]

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

May 1980

*AS AMENDED*

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the provisions of section 42-35-4.1 of the  
Rhode Island General Laws, as amended)**

These amended rules and regulations are promulgated pursuant to the authority conferred under sections 23-1-5, 23-1-17 and 23-21-4 of the General Laws of Rhode Island of 1956, as amended, and are established for the purpose of defining the minimal standards for recreational facilities consistent with statutory provisions.

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## **PART A DEFINITIONS AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **Section 1.0 DEFINITIONS**

Wherever used in these rules and regulations the following terms shall be construed as follows:

- 1.1 "Adequate" shall mean that which is needed to accomplish the intended purpose in keeping with good public health practice.
- 1.2 "Amusement Place" shall mean any tract of land together with the structures located thereon, the principle use of which is to provide a "midway" of amusement, or animal or vehicle racing for public amusement or recreation.
- 1.3 "Bathing" shall mean swimming and the related activities connected thereto.
- 1.4 "Bathing Beach" shall mean any natural area or tract of land which is used in connection with swimming and/or bathing in any waters of the state provided:
  - (a) It is open to the public by permit and/or payment of a fee; or
  - (b) It is maintained as a private club or association requiring membership fee or dues; or
  - (c) It is maintained with or without charge for the recreation of groups of ten (10) or more children.
- 1.5 "Department" shall mean Rhode Island Department of Health.
- 1.6 "Director" shall mean the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health or his duly authorized agents.
- 1.7 "Drainage Unit" shall mean a pit filled with crushed stone for soil absorption of potable water overflow at drinking facilities or watering stations.
- 1.8 "Family Camp" shall mean any place maintained to accommodate tents, mobile camping units, trailers, recreation vehicles, etc., in which separate sites are provided or made available for individuals, families or other groups of similar size. Service buildings may or may not be provided.
  - (a) "Primitive Family Camp" shall mean a place provided to accommodate camping with or without tents and/or shelters. Such places are usually **NOT** accessible to automobiles and/or recreation vehicles. A primitive family camp is a site at which basic needs for camp operation such as buildings, water supply systems, toilets, lavatories, showers and cooking facilities are **NOT** usually provided.
  - (b) "Caravan, Safari, Rally" shall mean an affiliated group of recreational vehicles assembled for a short term camping experience.
- 1.9 "Family Campsite" shall mean a portion of land in a camping area for the placement of a recreational vehicle and/or tent for the exclusive use of its occupants.
- 1.10 "Garbage" shall mean the putrescible animal and vegetable wastes that result from the handling, preparation and consumption of food.

- 1.11 "Hotel, Motel, Motor Court, Inn, Tourist Cabins" shall mean any building or group of buildings with six or more rooms, or accommodations for more than eight individuals, used for temporary occupancy for lodging or sleeping and further provided they are served by a private or non-community water supply or individual sewage disposal system.
- 1.12 "Mobile Home" shall mean a prefabricated, one-family dwelling unit, to which temporary wheels can be attached for transportation to a permanent location or foundation. Mobile homes are excluded from the provisions of these regulations.
- 1.13 "Operator" shall refer to any person who:
- (a) Alone or jointly or severally with others owns an establishment covered in these regulations; or
  - (b) Has care, charge or control of an establishment as agent or lessee of the owner or as an independent contractor.
- 1.14 "Person" will be held to mean any individual, firm, co-partnership, association or private or municipal corporation.
- 1.15 "Plastic Waste Insert" shall mean any liner which consists of a non-dissolvable material used as a convenience for the collection and disposal of refuse and human waste; e.g., liners for portable "Jonny" camp units, can liners, etc.
- 1.16 "Potable Water" shall mean water free from impurities present in amounts sufficient to cause disease or harmful physiological effects and conforming in its bacteriological, radiological and chemical quality to the requirement of the Rhode Island Department of Health Public Drinking Water Regulations.
- 1.17 "Primitive or Outpost Youth/Adult Camp" shall mean a camp or other site at which the basic needs such as places of abode, water supply systems and permanent toilet and cooking facilities are not usually provided.
- 1.18 "Recreation Facility" shall mean to include but not be limited to hotels, motels, motor courts or inns, tourist cabins establishments, camping areas, amusement places, bathing beaches, mobile recreational vehicle facilities and parks.
- 1.19 "Recreational Vehicle" shall mean a vehicle which may or may not be motor propelled, that is used primarily for recreation purposes on land. It includes motor homes, travel trailers, "pop-top" trailers, fold-out trailers, vans and other similar vehicles primarily designed for camping or overnight occupancy.
- (a) "Dependent Recreational Vehicle" shall mean a vehicle which has no permanent toilet, lavatory and shower facilities and is dependent upon a service building for toilet, lavatory and shower facilities.
  - (b) "Independent or Self-Contained Recreational Vehicle" shall mean a vehicle which can operate independent of connections to sewer, water and electric systems. It may contain a water-flushed toilet, lavatory, bath, shower and kitchen sink, all of which are connected to water storage and sewage holding tanks located within the vehicle.

- 1.20 "Refuse" shall mean all putrescible and non-putrescible solid wastes including garbage, rubbish, ashes and biological wastes.
- 1.21 "Rubbish" shall mean all non-putrescible solid wastes consisting of both combustible and non-combustible materials such as paper, tin cans, glass bottles, bedding, rags, crockery, metals, etc.
- 1.22 "Sanitary Station (Dump Station)" shall mean a facility used for receiving and disposing of wastes from various types of holding tanks.
- 1.23 "Sanitary Sewage" shall mean any human or animal excremental liquid or substance including the discharge of water closets, laundry tubs, washing machines, sinks, dishwashers and the contents of septic tanks, cesspools or privies. Waste water from dishwashing procedures, handwashing, bathing and shower facilities will be considered sewage.
- 1.24 "Service Building" shall mean a structure housing toilets, lavatories, showers and such other facilities as may be required.
- 1.25 "Shall or Must" shall be used to state mandatory requirements.
- 1.26 "Should or May" shall be used to state recommended or advisory procedures or equipment.
- 1.27 "Travel Trailer" shall mean a vehicular, portable structure built on a chassis with permanent wheels for the purpose of towing from place to place as a temporary residence for travel, recreation or vacation use.
- 1.28 "Watering Station" shall mean a centralized potable water supply outlet.
- 1.29 "Youth/Adult Camp" shall mean any camp, primitive or outpost camp, or residential camp which conducts a program for 10 or more campers.
- (a) "Day Camp" - A camp operated for less than 24 hours in any one day not including day care centers as defined in section 23-28.1-5 of the General Laws. Day campers will be limited to two overnight programs per week.
- (b) "Residential Camp" shall mean a camp which provides overnight facilities.

## Section 2.0 ADMINISTRATION

- 2.1 ISSUANCE AND EXPIRATION OF LICENSE - No person shall maintain within this state any recreation facility or use as defined in Section 1.0 until such person shall have obtained a license therefore from the department in accordance with the requirements of section 2 of Chapter 23-21 of the General Laws of Rhode Island of 1956, as amended. Licenses are not transferable. All licenses must be prominently displayed at the licensed location.
- 2.2 LICENSE APPLICATION - The initial application for a license must be on forms provided. A detailed plan drawn to scale showing the entire site, location and layout of buildings, recreational vehicle sites, complete details of water supplies, pumps and service including well logs, sewage and refuse disposal units, bathing areas and all available unit sites must be approved by the Director prior to any construction and before any license can be issued. Plans and construction must comply with

all applicable existing laws and regulations. Additions or alterations subsequent to the submission of such will be made only with the approval of the Director.

- 2.3 **SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE** - The Director may suspend or revoke any license for violation of the provisions of Chapter 23-21 of the Rhode Island General Laws or these regulations. The provisions of section 3 of Chapter 23-21 shall apply.
- 2.4 **VARIANCES** - In the event of special situations or unusual conditions, the Director may grant variances to these regulations. Requests for variances will be submitted in writing and detail to the licensing authority.
- 2.5 **RETROACTIVITY** - Recreational facilities licensed by the Department prior to 10 June 1980, the effective date of these rules and regulations, may be deemed acceptable with respect to said design and construction if they are capable of being maintained in a sanitary condition that protects the public health.
- 2.6 **PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS** - Any person who violates the foregoing regulations shall be subject to the provisions of section 8 of Chapter 23-21 of the General Laws of Rhode Island of 1956, as amended, entitled Licensing of Recreational Facilities.
- 2.7 **SEVERABILITY** - If any provision of these regulations or the application thereof to any facility or circumstance shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the provisions or application of the regulations which can be given effect, and to this end the provisions of the regulations are declared to be severable.

## **PART B GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **Section 3.0 ANIMALS AND PETS**

- (a) No owner or person in charge of a dog, cat or other pet animal shall permit it to run at large or to commit any nuisance within the limits of any recreational facility under these regulations. Any kennels, pens or other areas provided for such pets shall be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times.
- (b) The applicable provisions of Title 4, entitled Animal Health of the General Laws of Rhode Island of 1956, as amended, shall apply where applicable.
- (c) Horses and other farm animals must be stabled at least five hundred (500) feet away from living quarters, dining halls and kitchens in order to minimize odor and nuisance problems. Temporary shelters, corrals, tie rails or hitching posts shall not be located within two hundred (200) feet of any dining hall or other place where food is prepared, cooked or served. Stables must have cleanable floors properly drained and maintained. Drainage from stables and temporary quarters shall not contaminate any spring, stream, lake or other water drainage. All manure must be removed, stored or disposed of in a manner that prevents insect breeding.

### **Section 4.0 REPORTING OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE**

- 4.1 Cases of communicable disease designated as "reportable diseases" by the Director of Health shall be reported promptly to the Rhode Island Department of Health in accordance with the "Regulations

Pertaining to Reporting of Communicable Disease" of the Rhode Island Department of Health.

- (a) When infectious diseases present a potential hazard or occur in epidemic form in campers, these shall be reported to the Rhode Island Department of Health, even if not designated as "reportable diseases".

#### Section 5.0 CURTAILMENT OF UTILITIES OR SERVICES

- 5.1 No person shall cause the water, or sewage disposal, service facility or equipment which is required to be made available under these minimum standards to be shut off or removed except for such temporary period as may be necessary during actual repairs or alterations or during temporary emergencies when curtailment of service is approved by the Director.

#### Section 6.0 ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

- 6.1 Electrical wiring system provided shall consist of approved fixtures, equipment and appurtenances installed and maintained in accordance with the State Building Code.

#### Section 7.0 FOOD SERVICE

- 7.1 All food operations will comply with the requirements of Chapters 23-1, 21-27 and 21-31 of the General Laws of 1956, as amended, and the regulations adopted thereunder.

#### Section 8.0 LAUNDRY FACILITIES

- (a) If laundry facilities are provided in a recreational facility, there must be a separate room or building set aside for the use of washing machines and this use confined to the inhabitants of that recreational facility;
- (b) All laundry rooms will have floors that are impervious to water, easily cleaned and sloped to floor drains connected to the sewerage disposal system. The floors will be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times. Walls and partitions in laundries will be constructed of easily cleanable and impervious material;
- (c) Laundries will have 40 foot candles of lighting and be properly ventilated.

#### Section 9.0 PEST CONTROL

- (a) Grounds, buildings, parking areas, and structures must be maintained reasonably free of insect and rodent infestation and harborages;
- (b) Extermination methods and other measures to control pests must conform with requirements of the Department of Environmental Management where applicable or as approved by the Director.

#### Section 10.0 REFUSE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

- (a) The operator shall provide an adequate storage area and maintain, in a clean and sanitary condition, as many receptacles for the storage of garbage and rubbish as are necessary to contain the accumulation between collections. Garbage and rubbish should be disposed of at

least twice weekly;

- (b) Garbage must be stored in fly-tight, water-tight, rodent-proof receptacles of metal or other durable material and properly covered;
- (c) The storage, collection and disposal of refuse must be so conducted as to create no health hazards, rodent harborage, insect breeding areas, accident or fire hazards or air pollution;
- (d) When garbage and rubbish is to be disposed of on the grounds, disposal must be approved by the Director of Environmental Management and shall be in accordance with Chapter 46, Title 23.

#### Section 11.0 SEPTIC TANK CLEANERS

11.1 Any establishment under these regulations that has apparatus for the removal of septage or sanitary sewage must comply with the provisions of Chapter 23-49, Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended.

#### Section 12.0 SEWAGE DISPOSAL FACILITIES

- (a) Sewage must be disposed of in accordance with rules and regulations adopted under the authority of section 42-17.1-2(L), (M) and (R) of the Public Laws of 1978, Chapter 131, section 6;
- (b) Primitive or outpost camps will utilize methods approved by the Director.

#### Section 13.0 SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHING BEACHES

- (a) Where a swimming pool is provided, it will be constructed and operated in accordance with Chapter 23-22 of the General Laws of 1956, as amended, and all state regulations applicable;
- (b) Bathing beach water must meet bacteriological and safety standards as determined by the department, or the Department of Environmental Management.

#### Section 14.0 TOILETS, LAVATORIES AND SHOWERS

- (a) Each recreational facility will provide the number of toilets, showers or lavatories or fraction thereof as cited in Tables HIV of the appendix, and such facilities will be maintained clean, sanitary, well-lighted and in good repair;
- (b) Handwashing facilities will be adjacent to toilet facilities and urinals;
- (c) Potable hot and cold running water will be provided at all showers and lavatories unless a variance has been granted;
- (d) Approved hand cleaner and approved hand drying facilities will be provided at all lavatories unless a variance has been granted;
- (e) Proper ventilation will be provided;
- (f) 40 foot candles of light will be provided unless otherwise exempted;

- (g) Duckboards will not be used in showers.

### Section 15.0 WATER SUPPLY

- (a) The operator of all recreational facilities will supply potable water, under pressure, adequate for the needs of such facility. The water supply must be obtained from a source approved in writing by the Department and so distributed as to be readily available. If there is more than one well serving the recreational facility, each well must be visually, readily identifiable by name, number, color or some other means on or about the well;
- (b) The operator shall install and maintain all pipes and pumps delivering potable water in accordance with the State Building Code;
- (c) There must be no physical connection between any pipe carrying water from a potable water source and any pipe carrying water from any other source without written approval of the Director;
- (d) Drinking fountains shall be of a design meeting the following general criteria based on the National Plumbing Code, 1955 revision and installed in accordance with the State Building Code:
  - (1) The fountain shall be constructed of an impervious material and have an easily cleanable bowl and other surfaces;
  - (2) The jet of water must be at an angle preventing water from falling back into the orifice;
  - (3) The end of the nozzle must be protected by guards preventing the person using the fountain from contacting the nozzle;
  - (4) The nozzle must discharge above the edge of the bowl so an air gap is provided to prevent a possible cross-connection;
  - (5) Proper drainage must be provided to carry off water promptly.

## **PART C SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **SUBSECTION I**

#### Section 16.0 YOUTH/ADULT CAMPS

- 16.1 Toilets, Urinals and Privies - (1) Non-water carried sewage disposal systems such as pit privies, latrines and urinals may not be less than 100 feet from a kitchen or food service area; (2) Residential camps shall provide handwashing and shower facilities and will meet the minimum requirements as cited in Table II; (3) Sleeping areas shall not be more than 200 feet from a toilet or urinal nor less than 50 feet from any non-water carried toilets and/or urinals.
- 16.2 Handwashing and Showers, Etc. - (1) Handwashing and shower facilities shall be supplied with sufficient warm and cold running water; (2) Showers or bathtubs, when provided, must be in the living quarters or in a centrally located structure; (3) Handwashing facilities, shower stalls, bathtub areas and dressing compartments must be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition; (4) Day camps are not required to provide shower facilities; however, they must meet the requirements cited

in Table III; (5) Primitive or outpost camps are exempt from handwashing and shower facility requirements, as shown in Tables II and III.

- 16.3 Primitive (Outpost) Requirements - Basic standards of sanitation relative to waste and sewage disposal, water supply, lavatory, bathing facilities and food sanitation apply to all primitive camping including but not limited to the following: (1) Counselors must be trained in the basic principles of food protection and sanitation and a list of trained personnel certified by the director of camping for the particular organization shall be available; (2) Each individual shall have available approved clean, fresh water for lavatory needs; (3) Warm water and adequate facilities shall be available for handwashing; (4) Adequate facilities shall be provided for approved methods of sanitizing eating and drinking utensils; (5) slit trenches or "cat hole" disposal of human excreta or other recognized methods of sewage disposal must be provided.

## **SUBSECTION II**

### **Section 17.0 FAMILY CAMPS**

- 17.1 Waste Disposal - (1) One recreational vehicle sanitary station (dump station) with a foot-operated seal cover, or equivalent, providing sanitary closure of the sewer pipe inlet when not in use shall be provided for each 150 family campsites; (2) When potable water is supplied to an individual campsite, an approved means of sewage collection and/or disposal must be provided.
- 17.2 Potable Water Supply - A potable watering station must be provided for supplying recreational vehicle storage tanks. All necessary procedures must be taken to assure the safety of the water supply. A watering station must be at least fifty (50) feet away from a sanitary station. A sign at least two (2) feet by two (2) feet must be posted at each potable water station stating, in proportional lettering, "POTABLE WATER. NOT TO BE USED FOR FLUSHING WASTE TANKS".
- 17.3 Service Building - A central service building containing all necessary toilet and other required plumbing facilities must be provided for all recreational vehicle parking areas, except those reserved exclusively for independent recreational vehicles. Service buildings shall be located convenient to the parking spaces, but in no case more than five hundred (500) feet away. (See Table IV for required plumbing facilities.)
- 17.4 Primitive Camps - Basic standards of sanitation relative to waste and sewage disposal apply. Campers are responsible for using safe water for drinking and culinary purposes.
- 17.5 A Camping Caravan - Safari - Rally may be accommodated in an area maintained and licensed as a recreational facility provided adequate facilities are present to accommodate the types of recreational vehicles or tents involved. A camping caravan - safari - rally may be held on land not maintained as a recreational facility if prior approval is obtained from the Department of Health. Approved, adequate facilities must be readily available for good personal hygienic and public health protection. Approvals are limited to a three (3) day period.

**APPENDIX**

**PLUMBING FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS**

**Table I**

**Motels, Hotels, Cabins, Amusement Places, Bathing Beaches**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Toilets</b>	<b>Urinals</b>	<b>Handwashing Facilities</b>	<b>Bathtubs or Showers</b>
Motels, Hotels, Cabins, etc	1*	-	1*	1*
Amusement Places and Bathing Beaches	1/500 Male 1/500 Female	1/500 Male	1/500 Male 1/500 Female	-

\*Per dwelling unit

**Table II**

**Youth - Residential Camps**

<b>Number Served</b>	<b>Boys</b>		<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys or Girls</b>	
	<b>Toilets</b>	<b>Urinals</b>	<b>Toilets</b>	<b>Handwashing Facilities</b>	<b>Bathtubs or Showers</b>
1-10	1	-	1	1	1
11-18	1	1	2	2	2
19-33	2	1	2	3	2
34-48	2	2	3	3	3
49-63	3	2	4	4	4
64-79	3	3	5	4	5
80-95	4	3	6	5	6

**Table III**

**Youth - Day Camps**

<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>
Toilets*	1/60	1/35
Urinals*	1/60	-
Handwashing*	1/33	1/33

\*Per number of individuals served

**Table IV**

**Family Camps**

<b>Number of Sites</b>	<b>Toilets</b>		<b>Urinals</b>	<b>Handwashing Facilities</b>		<b>Showers</b>		<b>Other (a)</b>
	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>	
1-30	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	1
31-45	2	2	1	3	3	1	1	1
46-60	2	3	2	3	3	2	2	1
61-80	3	4	2	4	4	2	2	1
81-100	3	4	2	4	4	3	3	1
100+ (b)								

- (a) A flushing toilet (without seat) shall be provided, at each service building, for disposal of liquid wastes unless a sanitary station is conveniently accessible.
- (b) For recreational vehicle areas having more than 100 sites there shall be provided 1 additional toilet and lavatory, for each sex, for each additional 30 sites; 1 additional shower, for each sex, for each additional 40 sites; and 1 additional men's urinal for each additional 100 sites.