



Important Update – New Code

SPS 327 Camping Units

[2015 Wisconsin Act 49](#) directed the Division of Industry Services (DIS) at the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DPS) to adopt rules outside of the Uniform Dwelling Code (UDC) for one- and two-family dwellings, which establish standards for the construction and inspection of camping units set in a fixed location in a campground licensed by the Department of Health Services (DHS) under Wis. Stat. §. 254.47 [s. 97.67], that contain a sleeping place, and are used for seasonal overnight camping.



This memo intends to clarify questions relating to the administration and enforcement of Wisconsin Administrative Code SPS 327 as it pertains to camping units.

SPS 327.08(9) defines a Camping Unit as a framed structure or a tent, teepee, yurt, or other structure with fabric roof or walls that is 400 square feet or less in area, which is used for seasonal overnight camping in a campground. **SPS 327** applies only to the construction of new Camping Units built on or after the effective date of this chapter. The code does not apply to repairs, alterations, or additions. Like the UDC, **SPS 327** is a uniform statewide code, thus a local municipality may not adopt an ordinance on any subject falling within the scope of the code.

SPS 327 requires that all municipalities exercising jurisdiction over the UDC for one- and two- family dwellings shall, by ordinance, adopt SPS 327 in its entirety. Per **SPS 327.06(1)(a)** and **320.06**, inspections of camping units will be performed by the certified UDC inspector employed or contracted with the municipality in which the camping unit is located. **SPS 327.06(1)(b) provides an exception to this requirement for municipalities that notify the department, in writing, within 90 days of the effective date of this code that they are choosing to “opt out” from enforcing SPS 327. In municipalities that exercise this exception under sub. (1), the department will oversee (contract) enforcement and inspection services for new camping units.**

Note: Notification of intent to not exercise jurisdiction and certified copies of rescission of ordinances should be sent to Department of Safety and Professional Services, Industry Services Division, PO Box 7302, Madison, WI 53701-7302. This notification must be made by Sunday, May 7, 2017.

Wisconsin camping unit building permits are obtained from and submitted to the municipality administering and enforcing this code or from a registered UDC inspection agency administering and enforcing this code in a municipality where the department has jurisdiction pursuant to **s. 101.651 (3) (b)**, Stats., before any construction of a camping unit may begin. Permits will expire 24 months after issuance if construction of the camping unit has not been completed.

If you have any questions regarding the implementation of SPS 327 for Camping Units, DSPS encourages you to take a look at our [website](#), [email us](#) or call 608-266-2112.

