



Houston Fire Department Life Safety Bureau (LSB)



LSB Standard No. 25, Rev. 02

Safety Inspections for Vehicles on Indoor Display

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LSB Standards are established in accordance with provisions of the City of Houston *Fire Code*. They are subject to the administrative sections covering alternative materials and methods, modifications, and the Board of Appeals.

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Safety Inspections for Vehicles on Indoor Display

Section 25.1 – General

25.1.1 Scope.

The provisions of this standard shall apply to any and all motorized vehicles on indoor display within the City of Houston and its jurisdictions.

25.1.2 Purpose.

The purpose of this standard is to ensure that all motorized vehicles placed on indoor display within the City of Houston comply with the City of Houston *Fire Code*. The standard is also intended to establish guidelines for LSB classified personnel conducting motorized vehicle safety inspections for motorized vehicles in indoor displays.

Section 25.2 – Definitions

25.2.1 Motorized Vehicle.

A self-propelled vehicle that is powered by an internal combustion engine and is not operated on rails. This definition includes, but is not limited to:

1. Cars;
2. Trucks;
3. Motor driven boats;
4. Motor driven cycles;
5. Motor driven aircraft;
6. Recreational vehicles that use fuel for propulsion, heating, or cooking; and
7. Any object that is not considered a vehicle but contains an internal combustion engine such as a generator or pump.

25.2.2 Vehicle Safety Inspection Checklist (VSIC).

For each motorized vehicle on display, the exhibitor shall submit a Vehicle Safety Inspection Checklist (VSIC) to the Fire Marshal's Office for approval or disapproval. Life Safety Bureau inspection personnel shall inspect the motorized vehicle following the checklist to ensure that the motorized vehicle on display meets the requirements of this code. (See Appendix A for a copy of the Vehicle Safety Inspection Checklist.)

Section 25.3 – General Requirements

25.3.1 Standby Personnel.

Standby Personnel may be required for events where motorized vehicles are placed on indoor display.

The jurisdiction shall provide the standby personnel upon application and payment of fees specified in the *Fire Code*, and the standby personnel assigned shall be in uniform and shall remain on duty during the times such places are open to the public or when such activity is being conducted.

25.3.2 Permit for Liquid/Gas Fueled Vehicles or Equipment in Assembly Buildings.

A "Liquid or Gas Fueled Vehicles or Equipment in Assembly Building Permit" is required for all motorized vehicles intended for indoor display.

25.3.3 Plans and Permits.

The permit application shall include plans in a plot plan view format showing booth locations, access driveways, permanent buildings, and other pertinent information necessary for review. In addition, submitted plans shall be affixed to the permit application. Plans shall be submitted to:

Permit Office contact information is as follows:

The Houston Permitting Center

1002 Washington Avenue

Houston, Texas 77002

Hours of operation: 8:00am to 3:30pm (CST)

Monday through Friday

Office phone: (832) 394-8811

To E-mail Customer Service Questions: hfd.permitoffice@houstontx.gov

Link to City Wide Fee Schedule: www.houstoncityfees.org

Please Note: Permit applications submitted less than five (5) business days prior to the event will incur special handling fees.

25.3.4 VSIC Inspection.

A Fire Inspector shall conduct an inspection of all motorized vehicles submitted for indoor display and complete, approve and sign the VSIC for each motor vehicle placed on display. The management of the venue that displays the motor vehicle shall collect and secure all VSIC forms in a manner approved by the Fire Marshal. The venue management shall also ensure that the display continues to adhere to this standard throughout the display of the motor vehicle.

25.3.4.1 Inspections of Less Than 15 Motor Vehicles or Propane Cylinders.

If a display contains less than 15 motor vehicles or propane cylinders, the Fire Inspector shall conduct an inspection by appointment and during regular working hours.

25.3.4.2 Inspections of 15 or More Motor Vehicles or Propane Cylinders.

If a display contains 15 or more motor vehicles or propane cylinders, the Fire Inspector shall require the venue management to apply for a priority inspection in that is to be scheduled after normal working hours accordance with Section 106.2.4 of the *Fire Code*.

25.3.4.3 After Hour Inspections by Fire Inspector.

Any display containing any number of vehicles that requires an after-hours inspection shall be conducted by a Standby Fire Inspector.

25.3.5 Vehicle Fuel Level.

Motorized vehicles on display must not contain more than one-fourth (1/4) tank capacity or 5 gallons of fuel, whichever is least. Any motorized vehicle that does not have an operable fuel gauge or other reliable means of determining its fuel capacity shall have its permit application denied, and the motor vehicle will be prohibited from being placed on indoor display.

25.3.6 Vehicles Approved for Display.

An exhibitor whose motor vehicle that has satisfied the permitting requirements and the aforementioned fuel capacity measuring requirements and has been approved for display shall strictly adhere to the following requirements while on display:

25.3.6.1 Batteries.

Batteries must be disconnected after the vehicle is placed on display. If a battery disconnect switch is included in the vehicle it must be turned to the off position and secured in an approved manner.

25.3.6.2 Fuel Tanks and Fill Openings.

Fuel tanks and fill openings shall be closed and sealed to prevent tampering.

25.3.6.3 Fueling.

Vehicles shall not be fueled or defueled within the building.

25.3.6.4 LP-Gas Cylinders.

LP-gas cylinders shall be new and unused unless prior written approval has been given by the Fire Marshal. The vendor or his representatives must disconnect any piping from the cylinder and open any valves to verify that the cylinder is void of gas. Tools for these required steps shall be provided by the vendor.

25.3.6.5 Motorized Vehicles with LP-Gas.

Motorized vehicles that use LP-gas for special flame effects shall comply with Life Safety Bureau (LSB) Standard No. 10, "LP-Gas and Open Flame Use." Appendix F –Art Cars.

Appendix A – Vehicle Safety Inspection Checklist

**Houston Fire Department
Vehicle Safety Inspection Checklist
For Indoor Display of Liquid- or Gas-Fueled Motorized Vehicles**

Date of Inspection: _____ Venue: _____

Name of Event: _____

Booth Number: _____ Exhibitor Name: _____

Motorized Vehicle Type:

Car Truck Boat Personal Watercraft

Motor-Driven Cycle Aircraft

Other (specify): _____

In order to comply with the City of Houston *Fire Code* regulations, the following requirements must be adhered to:

Fuel in fuel tanks shall not exceed one-fourth (1/4) capacity or gallons, whichever is less. An accurate means of measuring the fuel amount shall be provided. (Prerequisite to entry into the building.)

Batteries must be disconnected.

Fuel tanks and fill openings shall be closed and sealed to prevent tampering.

Propane cylinders shall be new and unused unless prior written approval has been given by the Fire Marshal. The vendor or his representative will disconnect piping from the cylinder. Valves will be opened to verify the cylinder is void of propane gas. Any tools required shall be provided by the vendor.

Approved for display.

Rejected for display.

Reason(s) for rejection: _____

Fire Inspector (Print): _____

Fire Inspector (Signature): _____

References

1. City of Houston *Fire Code*.

All reference materials used under this Life Safety Bureau standard shall be in accordance with the most current adopted City of Houston *Construction Code*.