



# Houston Fire Department Life Safety Bureau (LSB)



## LSB Standard No. 25, Rev. 04

***Safety Inspections for Vehicles on Indoor Display***

*Supersedes: LSB Standard No. 25, Rev. 03, 10/27/2021*

**Effective Date: xx/xx/xx**

**NOT FINAL – 8/18/2023 – PENDING CITY COUNCIL ADOPTION**



---

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.

**Table of Contents**

Section 25.1 – General..... 3

    25.1.1 Scope. .... 3

    25.1.2 Purpose. .... 3

Section 25.2 – Definitions..... 3

    25.2.1 Motorized Vehicle. .... 3

    25.2.2 Vehicle Safety Inspection Checklist (VSIC). .... 3

Section 25.3 – General Requirements ..... 3

    25.3.1 Standby Personnel. .... 3

    25.3.2 Permit for Liquid/Gas Fueled Vehicles or Equipment in Assembly Buildings.... 4

    25.3.3 Plans and Permits..... 4

    25.3.4 VSIC Inspection. .... 4

        25.3.4.1 Inspections of Less Than 15 Motor Vehicles or Propane Cylinders. .... 4

        25.3.4.2 Inspections of 15 or More Motor Vehicles or Propane Cylinders..... 4

        25.3.4.3 After Hour Inspections by Fire Inspector. .... 4

    25.3.5 Vehicle Fuel Level. .... 4

    25.3.6 Vehicles Approved for Display ..... 5

        25.3.6.1 Batteries. .... 5

        25.3.6.2 Fuel Tanks and Fill Openings..... 5

        25.3.6.3 Fueling. .... 5

        25.3.6.4 LP-Gas Cylinders. .... 5

        25.3.6.5 Motorized Vehicles with LP-Gas. .... 5

Appendix A – Vehicle Safety Inspection Checklist ..... 6

References..... 7

# 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 safety inspections of motorized vehicles used 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 machine or piece of equipment that is not considered a vehicle but contains a device, such as a generator or pump, that is powered by an internal combustion engine.

### 25.2.2 Vehicle Safety Inspection Checklist (VSIC).

The form, approved by the Fire Code Official, used to document vehicle safety inspections conducted by members of the LSB. (See Appendix A.)

## 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. Assigned standby personnel 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 and permit applications 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](mailto:hfd.permitoffice@houstontx.gov)

Link to City Wide Fee Schedule: [www.houstoncityfees.org](http://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. A VSIC shall be completed, approved or rejected, and signed by the Fire Inspector 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 Code Official. The venue management shall also ensure that the display adheres to this standard throughout the display of the motor vehicle(s).

#### **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 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, venue management shall apply for a priority inspection that is to be scheduled after normal working hours in 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 fuel capacity 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 Code Official. The vendor(s) or their representatives must disconnect any piping from the cylinder and open any valves to verify that the cylinder contains no gas. Verification shall not be performed indoors. 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*.