

RVMAP Position: Fire Extinguisher Placement in Multiple Compartments of a Recreational Vehicle

November 2021



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Caravan Industry Association of Australia's RVMAP Technical Team has developed an RVMAP Position on fire extinguisher placement in multiple compartments of a recreational vehicle. The following information explains further details.

Background:

- Road vehicle regulations require the presence of fire extinguisher(s), with the number of devices based on the number of compartments.
- Multiple compartments within a recreational vehicle may be separated by any combination of a door, wall or other structure.

Description:

- A compartment is understood as any living area (excluding bathroom) of a recreational vehicle that can be separately enclosed (for example, by closing or latching a door).
- A door can be a hinged or movable barrier that makes a solid division between spaces within the recreational vehicle (for example, a pivot door, sliding door, concertina door, etc.)
- Unsealed, soft furnishing enclosures such as curtains would not create a separate compartment for the purpose of this requirement.



Working collaboratively with member State Associations on matters that affect the Caravan and Camping Industry



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Further information:

- As per AS/NZS 2444, the following table specifies the minimum rating and number of fire extinguishers according to the recreational vehicle type:

Recreational Vehicle Type	Minimum Rating and Classification	Minimum Number of Fire Extinguisher
Single-compartment	1A:5B	1
Multi-compartment	1A:5B	2

- Extinguishers are to be located to enable safe access in an emergency and supported by a suitable bracket to withstand the forces that result from vehicle impact or braking.
- Suitable areas for mounting extinguishers may be under or adjacent to the driver's seat of the vehicle or adjacent to external doors of the vehicle.
- As per Caravan Industry Association of Australia's discussion and understanding that took place in 2019 which was due to an issue raised by the Tasmanian regulators, any living area that is partitioned off with a wall and/or a door is to be taken to be a separate room and therefore requires a 2nd fire extinguisher. The following are the guidelines for fire extinguishers:
 - ◆ *For Motorhomes: A second extinguisher shall be fitted in each compartment (rooms) of a vehicle that has multiple compartments.*
 - ◆ *For Caravans: Where a caravan has multiple living (rooms) areas, a compliant fire extinguisher shall be securely fitted in each area.*



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