



RV Travel

News, Information & Advice for RVers



You are here ▶ Home > RV News, Newsletters & Opinion > Editorials & Opinion > Articles > Bob Difley > How often do you have to recertify propane tanks?

How often do you have to recertify propane tanks?

📅 March 9, 2018 👤 RV Staff



Here's a question from a reader of RVtravel.com about boondocking.

Hi Bob,

My husband and I began fulltime RVing in November 2017. We bought a 2003 Alpine Coach motorhome, having it inspected and warranted before hitting the road. We headed south from Indiana and have been to several states. We haven't had need for propane much other than a few cold periods. Not quite knowing how much we'll need it, we thought we should top off the tank while we were in Kentucky. But an attendant at a Pilot Truck Stop said he couldn't fill our tank because it didn't have an inspection sticker.

So, we tried to get an inspection at a propane gas company, but they said they don't do inspections and couldn't fill it for us because our rig was too big. They referred us to Tractor Supply. A TSC attendant said they don't do inspections either, but filled our tank without a problem.

Can you fill us in on the requirements for proper refilling of motorhome propane tanks and whether any/all states require inspections, how often, and by whom? Should the inspector we hired when we bought the RV pointed out the need for the tank to be certified? Thanks in advance for your response to our query. *Cheryl & Tom*

Hi Cheryl & Tom,

The Department of Transportation (DOT) finalized the new rule affecting requalification of DOT cylinders; this new rule took effect January 23, 2017.

The rule impacts the following areas of cylinder requalification:

- Reduces the initial requalification period for DOT cylinders from 12 years to 10 years from the date of manufacture.
- Reduces the requalification period for cylinders that are requalified using volumetric expansion testing from 12 years to 10 years.
- Increases the requalification period for cylinders that are requalified using a proof pressure test from 7 years to 10 years.
- Does not affect the 5-year visual inspection method for cylinder requalification.

According to the [Energized Gas Inc. website](#), ... "each state you cross handles propane refill differently than the next. You need to be aware of the rules and regulations. Some states may require suppliers to use three separate measures for determining when the propane tank is full. You

TOPICS:

Select Category ▼

RECENT RV RECALLS

[Integra Coach recalls some RVs for power steering issue](#)

[Forest River RV recalls some motorhomes on Freightliner chassis](#)

[Triple E recalls motorhomes for incorrect weight labels](#)

[Keystone recalls trailers for potential propane leak](#)

[Newmar recalls motorhomes for taillight problem](#)

[Winnebago recalling RVs for roof rack defect](#)

[RV and RV-related recalls for February 2018](#)

[Forest River recalls toy haulers for wrong safety chains](#)

[Thor recalls RVs for sofa seat belt design error](#)

[Keystone recalls trailers for improper GFCI receptacle](#)

MAINTENANCE, REPAIRS &



Receive an email once a day about all articles posted in the last 24 hours.

RV DAILY TIPS NEWSLETTERS

📅 March 25, 2018
[RV Daily Tips Newsletter Issue 871](#)

📅 March 21, 2018
[RV Daily Tips Newsletter Issue 870](#)

📅 March 20, 2018
[RV Daily Tips Newsletter Issue 869](#)

📅 March 19, 2018
[RV Daily Tips Newsletter Issue 868](#)

RECENT RV TRAVEL NEWSLETTERS

📅 March 23, 2018
[RV Travel Newsletter Issue 838](#)

📅 March 16, 2018
[RV Travel Newsletter Issue 837](#)

📅 March 09, 2018
[RV Travel Newsletter Issue 836](#)

RV DAILY TIPS NEWSLETTERS

📅 March 25, 2018
[RV Daily Tips Newsletter Issue 871](#)

📅 March 21, 2018
[RV Daily Tips Newsletter Issue 870](#)

📅 March 20, 2018
[RV Daily Tips Newsletter Issue 869](#)

📅 March 19, 2018
[RV Daily Tips Newsletter Issue 868](#)





Could the "Egyptian curse" affect your RV?

Fact Check: Open your tailgate for better fuel economy?

How accurate is your TPMS? - Part 2

Keep ants and mice out of your RV

Why is hot water coming out of the cold faucet?

RV Mods: Carry your water hose on this spare tire bracket

How accurate is your TPMS?

Sagging slideout topper - What's an RVer to do?

RECENT COMMENTS

Eric Meslin on RV Travel Newsletter Issue 838

Eric Meslin on RV Travel Newsletter Issue 838

DAVE TELENKO on RV Electricity - No~Shock~Zone by Mike Sokol - Issue 5

Patrick Hamilton on RV Travel Newsletter Issue 838

ted on RV park owner laments crowding, rookie RVers

THE RV KITCHEN

Readers' Favorite Recipe: The BEST Banana Bread

regulations when it comes to renting your propane tanks, so it's best to get familiar with the regulations before you embark on your journey."

RV propane tanks, or DOT cylinders, must be filled at certified filling stations by trained technicians. Every ten years, an RV propane tank or DOT cylinder used on a travel trailer or 5th Wheel must be recertified, as well as inspected for working condition after each subsequent filling. Any propane supplier should be able to clarify the rules and advise you where (in the local area) you can get your tank recertified.

Motorhomes, though, have installed ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) tanks, not DOT tanks. ASME tanks are not required to be re-certified since they are permanently installed. But DOT/TC cylinders, both vertical and horizontal, because they can be removed, transported and filled independently, do qualify for periodic re-certification.



Motorhome ASME propane tank

All propane containers, tanks and cylinders, however, should be periodically inspected, cleaned and tested for leaks. All of which should be considered preventive maintenance common sense.

For more information and updates contact the [National Propane Gas Association \(NPGA\)](#).

As to whether the inspector you hired should have told you about the need to recertify your tank, probably, but it's not worth fretting over for his oversight. There are lots of new things you will learn as you travel about - and learning them provides the transition from a newbie to an experienced RVer. After more than 40 years of RVing and 17 years as a fulltimer, I am still learning. And then the rules all change - again.

[Read more about boondocking at my BoondockBob's Blog.](#)
[Check out my Kindle e-books about boondocking at Amazon.](#)

Do you have a question for Bob? Email him at bob.rvtravel (at) gmail.com

##RVT836

☐ Bob Difley Boondocking LP Gas System

« Why are my RV batteries drying out?

Thor Industries shifting focus from Boomers to Millennials »

RELATED

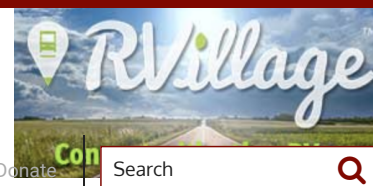
Beware the bear!

Bob Difley Boondocking RV safety

Keep ants and mice out of your RV

Bob Difley Boondocking Pest control

How to handle water needs when boondocking



CATEGORIES

Select Category ▾

RV ELECTRICITY NEWSLETTER

📅 March 24, 2018

[RV Electricity - No~Shock~Zone by Mike Sokol - Issue 5](#)

📅 February 24, 2018

[RV Electricity - No~Shock~Zone by Mike Sokol - Issue 4](#)

ABOUT US

RVtravel.com and its weekly newsletter (now in its 16th year) are headquartered in Edmonds, Wash., just north of Seattle. [Learn more about us](#) including our history, our staff and our plans for the future.





Vegetarian Lasagna
Crockpot Sausage Risotto

Anything a Keeper organizes your stuff discreetly

Bob Difley Camping on public lands Public campgrounds

Why is my propane tank humming?

Gary Bunzer, RV Doctor, Q&A LP Gas System

Keeping cool in a spring desert

Bob Difley Boondocking Gizmos and Gadgets Heating and cooling

11 THOUGHTS ON "HOW OFTEN DO YOU HAVE TO RECERTIFY

PROPANE TANKS?"

Ian Hunter

March 17, 2018 at 3:52 pm

Would you please give information on Viking composite propane tanks. Thank you.

Reply

Sharon Baron

March 11, 2018 at 7:36 pm

I recently went to BJ's in Miami to fill my propane tanks. One of the tanks was rejected as it was too old even though there was no rust evident. If I remember correctly the tank was 12 years old. That seems to be the standard. So I bought a new one. The also told me to take the old one to Home Depot and they will give me a new tank for about 25.00

Reply

Doc

March 10, 2018 at 6:23 pm

Correct, no recertification on permanently installed asme tank. But a visual integrity inspection should occur at every refill

Reply



Tommy Molnar

March 10, 2018 at 7:30 am

Depending on where you stop for refilling your propane tank(s), the "trained" operator might not even glance at the manufacture date. Just hook up the hose and fill.

If we haul one of our tanks into a nearby town to refill, I always make sure it's clean and looks new (even though it's NOT new). This can help avoid any immediate inspection problems.

30 years ago I worked for a propane company, and the way we "re-certified" tanks was to spray 'special' bubbling propane leak detection fluid (which I suspect was relabeled diluted Palmolive dish soap . . .), look for excessive rust, and stamp a 'recert' stamp on it. You were then good to go. I can't imagine much has changed since then - other than raising the price for this highly technical process.

Reply

SPONSORS AND RESOURCES

RV parts and Accessories at Amazon.com

Did you know that Amazon.com has one of the largest — if not THE largest — selection of RV parts and accessories anywhere? Not only is the selection vast, but the prices great.

Camp for free with fellow RVers

Boondockers Welcome



members can connect with fellow RVers across the country who invite them to be a guest on their private property for a night or two. Meet locals with a common interest. Share experiences. Arrange safe, legal, free overnight RV parking all the way to your destination. [Learn more.](#)





A motorhome ASME tank like the one on Sheryl & Tom's. Is not required to any inspection like the bottled DOT tanks. Bob didn't mention that in his answer to Sheryl & Tom.

ASME TANKS that are found on an RV do not get recertified.

[Reply](#)

Dennis

[🕒 March 10, 2018 at 9:16 am](#)

Ward is correct. DOT tanks and ASME tanks are two different animals. The permanent mounted ASME tanks on a motorhome Do Not require recertification.

[Reply](#)

Morrie Estrada

[🕒 March 10, 2018 at 10:14 am](#)

There should have been an explanation on the difference between a DOT cylinder and an ASME tank. Most people are still confused.

[Reply](#)

Dave Hagen

[🕒 March 10, 2018 at 9:21 am](#)

Ward is right. Bob did not answer the question! Sheryl and Tom have a motorhome!

[Reply](#)

Brent

[🕒 March 10, 2018 at 6:31 am](#)

The recertification period has changed back to 12 years.

[Reply](#)

Charles Howard

[🕒 March 10, 2018 at 6:21 am](#)

I had the same problem in KY. And couldn't find anyone to recertify so I bought one new tank.

When we got to the RGV the Propane dealer near our Park recertified my remaining OLD tank for \$10

[Reply](#)

James E.

[🕒 March 9, 2018 at 5:42 pm](#)

A motorhome tank is permanently attached and to my knowledge does not have to be recertified.

[Reply](#)





Comment

Name

ADD COMMENT

Email

Do you shop at Amazon.com?



Shop here and help support this newsletter. You pay

the same price as you do going directly to Amazon.com, but we get a tiny commission (which adds up and helps us continue to produce our website and its weekly newsletter). Thanks a whole bunch! [Click here.](#)

MORE THAN 500 GREAT VIDEOS!



*PRIVACY POLICY

This privacy policy discloses the privacy practices for RVtravel.com and its affiliated websites and newsletters. This privacy policy applies solely to information on our websites. Your use of our website signifies that you agree to this Privacy Policy. Information Collection, Use, and Sharing We only have access to/collect information that...

[\[READ FULL POLICY\]>>](#)

