

Press information



DEKRA laboratory tests motor home interiors and components

Testing for Harmful Substances Ensures RV Safety

Time and again, manufacturers and dealers are unsettled by questions about harmful substances in motor homes. Experts from the DEKRA Laboratory for Environmental and Product Analysis advise manufacturers to have the interiors of motor homes – and possibly also the components and materials used – tested before their sale to demonstrate their safety.

As Germany's largest testing organization, DEKRA has extensive experience of measuring harmful substances in the interiors of vehicles and homes – and thus also in motor homes. The relevant standards for the laboratory testing of recreational vehicles (RVs) are found in the ISO 16000 series, especially DIN ISO 16000-3 and DIN ISO 16000-6. They cover the analysis of formaldehyde and other carbonyl compounds such as acetone, as well as the analysis of volatile organic compounds (VOC's).

In regulatory terms, motor homes represent a special case when it comes to the presence of harmful substances in the interior because no direct threshold values have been specified. Germany's Federal Environment Agency (UBA) has issued a range of guideline values that is subject to ongoing expansion and modification to reflect the available scientific data. However, these values were originally used to assess indoor air quality. The Association of Ecological Research (AGÖF) published a list of guidance values for assessing whether any general anomalies exist.

DEKRA's laboratory experts draw attention to the fact that neither the UBA guideline values nor the AGÖF guidance values are legally binding. However, the German courts consider the UBA guideline values to be scientifically proven; they can therefore be consulted if necessary.

If the UBA guideline values are exceeded or there are significant deviations from the AGÖF guidance values, DEKRA recommends examining the emissions of the materials and components used in RVs to identify any potential sources. For example, it is known that formaldehyde may be released from many wood-based materials and

Date Stuttgart, July 16, 2025 / No. 061
Contact Tilman Vögele-Ebering
Phone +49 (0)711.7861-2122
Fax +49 (0)711.7861-742122
E-mail tilman.voegel-ebering@dekra.com

DEKRA e.V.
Corporate Communications
Handwerkstrasse 15
70565 Stuttgart, Germany
www.dekra.de/presse

some plastics. Process materials like adhesives, sealants, and coatings are typical sources of various VOC's.

On behalf of suppliers and OEM's, DEKRA's experts use test chambers to measure emissions at the component assembly level. Stringent quality standards apply. In addition, it is possible to directly test organic emissions of individual components and materials (for example, in accordance with VDA 278). Moreover, manufacturer-specific threshold values have been defined for this test procedure. The DEKRA laboratory also has the capability to perform odor testing of the components and materials used in vehicle interiors.

Specialist contact

DEKRA Laboratory for Environmental and Product Analysis

Clemens Schober

Phone: +49 (0)711.7861-4171

E-mail: clemens.schober@dekra.com



About DEKRA

For 100 years, DEKRA has been a trusted name in safety. Founded in 1925 with the original goal of improving road safety through vehicle inspections, DEKRA has grown to become the world's largest independent, non-listed expert organization in the field of testing, inspection, and certification. Today, as a global partner, the company supports its customers with comprehensive services and solutions to drive safety and sustainability forward – fully aligned with DEKRA's anniversary motto, "Securing the Future." In 2024, DEKRA generated revenue of 4.3 billion euros. Around 48,000 employees are providing qualified and independent expert services in approximately 60 countries across five continents. DEKRA holds a Platinum rating from EcoVadis, placing it among the top 1% of the world's most sustainable companies.