In Québec, temporary fabric shelters are commonly used to protect automobiles from winter weather. Fatal accidents were caused by the collapse of some of these shelters, which gave way under the weight of snow. This induced the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS) to entrust the BNQ with the mandate of developing a consensus product standard for carport design and manufacturing.

The BNQ began by conducting a study, which confirmed the technical feasibility and viability of a consensus standard on the subject. Documentary research validated that no standard existed for winter temporary fabric shelters and that a Québec standard on the subject would fill this gap.

Consultation of interested also confirmed the relevance of such a standardization project. People in the industry considered it urgent to decide on a set of rules that would allow manufacturing of safer winter temporary fabric shelters. This urgency in the industry was dictated by a rush to low prices detrimental to safety. The standard was seen as a way for the industry to self-regulate by setting fair rules that could apply to everyone.

For whom is the standard intended?
The standard is intended for manufacturers of carports of predetermined dimensions and carports made to measure.

I am a manufacturer. How can I comply with the standard?
- Procure the standard on the BNQ website and become familiar with its requirements.
- Consult an engineer to obtain an attestation of compliance that confirms that the capacity of your carport models meets the standard’s requirements.
- Inform your suppliers of the requirements that apply and obtain confirmation that their products comply with the specified requirements.
- Ensure your carports include all the markings required by the standard.
- Make sure that your carports are supplied with the assembly, installation, use, snow removal, periodic maintenance, and storage instructions required by the standard.
- If you want your carports to be certified in compliance with BNQ 3910-700, apply to the BNQ for certification when the certification program is in place.

When will the BNQ certification program be available?
As of January 2016, the BNQ will offer a certification program that will allow interested manufacturers to have an independent third party certify that their products are in compliance with the standard.

I am a consumer. How can I buy a certified shelter in compliance with the standard?
The first certified shelters should appear on the market in fall 2016. Companies certified by the BNQ may affix the following logo to their products, which will allow consumers to easily identify products certified in compliance with BNQ 3910-700. Consumers may also identify the certified compliant products by visiting the BNQ website under “Entreprises certifiées” (Certified companies) associated with BNQ 3910-700.

I am a manufacturer. Can I declare that my products comply with the standard’s requirements?
You may self-declare that your products satisfy the standard’s requirements. However, any form of self-declaration shall comply with section 221 of the Consumer Protection Act, which stipulates that no merchant, manufacturer or advertiser may, falsely, by any means whatever, hold out that goods are of a specified standard. Therefore, you must have all the proof to attest that your products comply with all the standard’s requirements.

1. Go to the following website: https://www.bnq.qc.ca/fr/normalisation/sante-et-securite/abris-d-hiver-temporaires-en-toile.html
2. The specified requirements may come directly from the standard (e.g. requirements for the fabric) or be characteristics specified in the plan of the carport model (e.g. technical specification of the material used in manufacturing the pipes).
I already have a carport. Can I verify whether it is in compliance with BNQ 3910-700?
Unfortunately, it is not possible for consumers to verify the compliance of existing carports with BNQ 3910-700. This would require an in-depth analysis of the design of the carport and its materials, information that the consumer does not possess.

How can I install my carport properly?
The standard requires that each carport come with detailed installation instructions. It is therefore essential for consumers to follow these instructions to ensure the safety of the carport’s installation.

Here is some essential information contained in the installation instructions:

**DANGER**
Do not use concrete blocks to anchor the shelter. It is not a safe practice.

**WARNING**
The standard anchors supplied with the shelter are only to be used for installation on an asphalt surface. If the shelter is installed on any other type of surface, other types of anchors shall be used as specified below. If standard anchors are used, the nails shall be installed in an X formation to ensure their anchoring capacity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of soil</th>
<th>Type of anchor to be used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asphalt surface</td>
<td>Standard anchors, permanent toggle anchors or permanent grapnel anchors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete or cement</td>
<td>Permanent toggle anchors or permanent grapnel anchors when the concrete or cement slab is 152 mm [6 in] thick or less. Concrete anchors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interlocking paving stones</td>
<td>Permanent toggle anchors or permanent grapnel anchors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crushed stone, clay soil or sandy soil</td>
<td>These types of soils have less holding capacity. Permanent toggle anchors or stakes may be used. If necessary, consult an expert to properly secure the shelter and use more anchors than the minimum recommended by the manufacturer.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What clearance distances shall there be between my shelter and the neighbouring structures?
Wherever possible, a clearance distance of 915 mm [3 ft] shall be maintained between the shelter and adjacent buildings or other structures, including other temporary shelters.

Lean to shelters are designed to be installed adjacent to another lean to shelter or a building (see Figure A). When installed adjacent to a building, they shall be installed in such a way as to avoid receiving the snow loads from the building beside them (see Figure B).