

City of Vista Fire Department

Prevention Bureau

200 Civic Center Dr, Vista CA 92084

Guideline:

Automotive Repair Garages



Date: May 2012

PURPOSE

The intent of this guideline is to provide the minimum standards necessary for repair garages used for service or repair of motor vehicles in accordance with the 2010 California Fire Code (CFC) Chapter 22. Failure to comply with these standards shall be due cause for denial or revocation of required permits and filing for civil or criminal prosecution.

SCOPE

This guideline is applicable to structures used for business for the purpose of servicing or repairing motor vehicles. The information supplied by the applicant is also required to determine application of California Fire Code provisions and permit requirements. The information required herein allows the necessary precautions and safeguards to be taken to safely and effectively respond to an incident.

GUIDELINES

The applicant shall provide three (3) sets of plans showing the following information, prior to a permit being processed. Specifically:

1. A site plan with the building location, property lines and emergency access roadways clearly shown
2. The area (in square feet) of the building, and/or tenant space for the repair garage
3. The occupancy classification per the California Building Code
4. The types of liquids and methods used for the cleaning of parts
5. Location of any welding equipment and compressed gases
6. Location(s) of all fire extinguishers
7. Location and size of waste oil storage, and method of disposal
8. Type of container used for waste oil storage
9. Location of any exits and/or building openings
10. Whether or not the building is equipped with a fire sprinkler system

REQUIREMENTS

1. The cleaning of parts shall be done in listed and approved parts-cleaning machines.
2. Motor vehicle fuel tanks shall be filled directly through hose from an approved pump. Gasoline shall not be transferred in any open container, liquids drained from motor vehicles shall be handled as required for a Class I flammable liquids in accordance with the California Fire Code Chapter 34.
3. Garage floors shall drain to approved oil separators or traps discharging to the sewer in accordance with the Plumbing Code. Contents shall be collected periodically to prevent oil from being carried into the sewers.

4. Waste oil and rags shall be stored in approved self-closing metal cans per California Fire Code Chapter 22, Section 2211.2.3.2.
5. Fixed appliances, ventilation and equipment shall comply with the provisions of the Building and Mechanical Codes.
6. All electrical devices, wiring, heating appliances or spark /flame producing equipment capable of igniting flammable vapors shall not be installed or used within 18-inches of the floor per California Fire Code, Chapter 22, Section 2211.3, and shall comply with Chapters 3 and 26.
7. Welding operations shall comply with California Fire Code Chapter 26 and requires a separate permit.
8. When Class I liquids or Liquefied Petroleum (LP) gas are stored or used within a building having a basement or pit where flammable vapors could accumulate, the basement or pit shall be provided with ventilation designed to prevent the accumulation of flammable vapors.
9. Containers and tanks containing a mixture of fuel and lubricating oil shall be stored and handled in accordance with the requirements of California Fire Code Chapter 34 for Class I liquids.
10. Lubricating oil that has been drained from motor vehicles shall be stored and handled as required for Class III-B liquids in accordance with California Fire Code Ch. 34.
11. Additional design requirements shall be satisfied for repair garages servicing vehicles fueled by Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), hydrogen or other fuel source, per California Fire Code, Chapter 22, Section 2211.
12. Once a plan for the repair garage has been approved, it shall accompany a permit application and permit fee and be submitted to the Fire Prevention Public Counter.
13. Storage or use of Liquid Propane Gas (LP-gas) may be required per California Fire Code, Chapter 1, Section 105.6.27