



Corona Fire Department

Automotive Repair Garages and Fuel Dispensing Facilities Guideline per the 2016 California Fire Code

PURPOSE

The intent of this guideline is to provide the minimum standards necessary for automotive motor fuel-dispensing facilities, fleet vehicle motor fuel-dispensing facilities and repair garages, in accordance with 2016 California Fire Code (CFC) Chapter 23. Failure to comply with these standards shall be due cause for denial or revocation of required permits and filing for civil or criminal prosecution. The Fire Chief may waive any of these requirements upon receipt of alternate methods and materials that meet the intent of these standards. This guideline does not address mobile fuel dispensing.

SCOPE

This guideline is applicable to structures used for business for the purpose of servicing or repairing motor vehicles, and where flammable or combustible liquids or gases used as motor fuels are stored and dispensed from fixed equipment into fuel tanks of motor vehicles. The information supplied by the applicant is also required to determine application of California Fire Code provisions and permit requirements. This 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 two (2) 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/or compressed gases
6. Location(s) of all fire extinguishers
7. Location and size of waste oil storage, and method of disposal
8. Provisions for spill control and secondary containment
9. Type of container used for waste oil storage
10. Location of all exits and/or building openings
11. Whether or not the building is equipped with a fire sprinkler system
12. Location of NFPA 704 placarding

REQUIREMENTS

1. Repair garages shall comply with the applicable provisions of CFC Section 2311 and the California Building Code. Repair garages for vehicles that use more than one type of fuel shall comply with the applicable sections for each type of fuel used.

2. Class I, II, and IIIA liquids shall not be dispensed into a portable container unless such container is of approved material and construction and has a tight closure with screwed or spring-loaded cover. Liquids shall not be dispensed into portable tanks or cargo tanks per CFC 2304.4.1.
3. Dispensing of fuel at motor fuel-dispensing facilities shall be conducted by a qualified attendant or shall be under the supervision of a qualified attendant at all times per CFC 2304.1 Unattended self-service motor-fuel-dispensing facilities shall comply with the requirements of CFC 2304.3.1 through 2304.3.7.
4. Approved portable fire extinguishers with a minimum rating of 2-A:20B:C shall be provided and located such that an extinguisher is not more than 75 feet from pumps, dispensers or storage tank fill-pipe openings, per CFC 2305.5.
5. In accordance with CFC 2305.6, warning signs shall be conspicuously posted within sight of each dispenser in the fuel-dispensing area and shall state the following:
 - a. No Smoking.
 - b. Shut off motor.
 - c. Discharge your static electricity before fueling by touching a metal surface away from the nozzle.
 - d. To prevent static charge, do not reenter your vehicle while gasoline is pumping.
 - e. If a fire starts, do not remove nozzle – back away immediately.
 - f. It is unlawful and dangerous to dispense gasoline into unapproved containers.
 - g. No filling of portable containers in or on a motor vehicle. Place container on ground before filling.
6. Storage of flammable and combustible liquids shall be in accordance with CFC Chapter 57 and CFC 2306.
7. Flammable liquids shall not be dispensed by gravity from tanks, drums, barrels or similar containers. Flammable or combustible liquids shall not be dispensed by a device operating through pressure within a storage tank, drum or container, per CFC 2306.7.8.
8. Electrical equipment, dispensers, hose, nozzles, submersible or subsurface pumps and/or vapor recovery and vapor processing systems shall be listed and approved for their use per CFC 2306.7.1 through 2306.7.9.2.4.
9. Garage floors shall drain to approved oil separators or traps discharging to the sewer in accordance with the CA Plumbing Code. Contents shall be collected periodically to prevent oil from being carried into the sewers, per CFC 2311.2.3.
10. Waste oil and rags shall be stored in self-closing metal cans per CFC 2311.2.3.2
11. Cleaning of parts shall be conducted in listed and approved parts-cleaning machines in accordance with CFC Chapter 57.
12. Motor oil, waste oil and other Class IIIB liquids shall be stored in approved tanks or containers, which are allowed to be stored and dispensed from inside repair garages, per CFC 2311.2.2.
 - a. Tanks storing Class IIIB liquids in repair garages are allowed to be located at, below or above grade, provided that adequate drainage or containment is provided.

- b. Crankcase drainings shall be classified as Class IIB liquids unless otherwise determined by testing.
13. Appliances, and equipment installed in a repair garage shall comply with the provisions of the California Building, Electrical and Mechanical Codes, per CFC 2311.3.1
 14. Sources of ignition shall not be located within 18 inches of the floor and shall comply with Chapters 3 and 26 of the California Fire Code, per CFC 2311.3.
 15. Spray finishing with flammable or combustible liquids shall meet the requirements of CFC Chapter 24, per CFC 2311.2.4.
 16. When Class I liquids or 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 mechanical ventilation in accordance with the California Mechanical Code, at a minimum rate of 1.5 cubic feet per minute per square foot to prevent the accumulation of flammable vapors, per CFC 2311.4.3.
 17. Additional design requirements shall be satisfied for fuel dispensing facilities and repair garages, as follows:
 - a. Motor fuel-dispensing facilities for liquefied petroleum gas fuel (LP-gas) shall be in accordance with CFC Section 2307, and Chapter 61.
 - b. Motor fuel-dispensing facilities for compressed natural gas (CNG) fuel shall be in accordance with CFC Section 2308, and Chapter 53.
 - c. Hydrogen motor fuel-dispensing and generation facilities shall be in accordance with CFC Section 2309, and Chapter 53. Where a fuel-dispensing facility also includes a repair garage, the repair operation shall comply with CFC Section 2311.
 - d. Alcohol blended fuel dispensing systems shall be in accordance with CFC Section 2306.7 and Sections 2306.8.1 through 2306.8.5.
 1. Dispensers, hoses, nozzles, breakaway fittings, swivels, flexible connectors or dispenser emergency shutoff valves, vapor recovery systems and pumps used in alcohol blended fuel-dispensing systems shall be listed or approved for the specific use, and shall be so marked per CFC 2306.8.2.
 2. Fuel-dispensing systems subject to change in contents from gasoline to alcohol blended fuels shall be subject to fire code official review and approval prior to start up of dispensing operations.
 3. Facilities dispensing alcohol blended fuels shall be identified by a means approved by the fire code official.
 4. Alcohol blended fuel dispensers shall be marked in an approved manner.
 5. Equipment shall be maintained and inspected in accordance with CFC 2305.2.
 - e. Guard posts complying with CFC 312 or other approved means may be required for site specific concerns noted at the time of field inspection.