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MOTOR VEHICLE AND SMALL ENGINE REPAIR FACILITIES

General.

An operational fire permit is required for operation of repair garages. Repair garages shall comply with Chapter 22 of the Minnesota State Fire Code (MSFC). Where a repair garage also includes a “Service Station” (fuel-dispensing), an additional operational permit is required. Refer to Blaine handout entitled, “Service Stations” for additional requirements for fueling motor vehicles.

Definitions.

Repair Garage: A building, structure or portion thereof used for servicing or repairing internal combustion engines on motor vehicles and small engine equipment.

Flammable and Combustible Liquids.

The storage and use of flammable and combustible liquids in repair garages shall be in compliance with MSFC Chapter 34.

Cleaning of parts shall be conducted in listed and approved parts cleaning machines.

Waste Oil, motor oil and other Class IIIB liquids shall be stored in approved tanks and containers. Tanks storing IIIB liquids in repair garages are allowed to be located at, above or below grade, provided that adequate drainage or containment is provided.

Crankcase oil shall be classified as Class IIIB liquids unless otherwise determined by testing.

Garage floor drains, where provided, shall drain to approved oil separators or traps discharging to a sewer in accordance with the Plumbing Code. Contents of oil separators, traps and floor drainage systems shall be collected at sufficient intervals and removed from the premises to prevent oil from being carried into the sewers.

Crankcase drainings and liquids shall not be dumped into sewers, streams or upon the ground.

Metal containers with self-closing metal lids shall be used for oily waste.

Spray finishing with flammable or combustible liquids shall comply with MSFC Chapter 15. (Refer to Blaine handout entitled “Flammable Spray Finishing.”)

Ignition Sources.

Sources of ignition shall not be located within 18-inches of a floor and shall comply with MSFC Chapter 3 and 26, “General Precautions” and “Hot Work” (Refer to Blaine handout titled “Hot Work”).

Appliances and equipment installed in a repair garage shall comply with provisions of the Building Code, Mechanical Code and Electrical Code.

Below-Grade Areas.

Pits and below-grade work areas in repair garages shall be constructed in accordance with the Building Code.

Pits and below-grade work areas in repair garages shall be provided with egress in compliance with MSFC, Chapter 10.

Where Class I liquids or LP-gas are stored or used within a building with a pit and/or below-grade areas, these areas shall be provided with ventilation in accordance with the Mechanical Code (min. rate of 1.5 cu. ft./minute per square foot) to prevent accumulation of flammable vapors.

Preparation of Vehicles for Repair.

Vehicles powered by gaseous fuels shall have the fuel shut-off valves closed prior to repairing any portion of the fuel system.

Vehicles powered by gaseous fuels in which the fuel system has been damaged shall be inspected and evaluated for fuel system integrity prior to being brought into the repair garage. The inspection shall include testing of the entire fuel delivery system for leakage.

Fire extinguishers shall be provided in accordance with MSFC Section 906.

No smoking signs shall be conspicuously posted in shop areas.

Fuels Lighter than Air. (special provisions)

Repair garages for the conversion and repair of vehicles which use CNG, LNG, hydrogen or other lighter-than-air fuels require very specific provisions relating to design, ventilation, operation and gas detection. Repair garages utilizing lighter-than-air fuel shall be in accordance with MSFC Section 2211.7 [**Note the exceptions relating to ventilation requirements*]