



KCCA/DPP/1700

16th January 2014

The Chairperson,
Physical Planning Committee
Kampala Capital City Authority
KAMPALA.

GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR “CAR WASHES” IN THE CITY.

Owing to the overwhelming and mushrooming development of car washes, the Directorate of Physical Planning found it fit to establish guidelines and specifications for setting car washes in the city.

“Car Wash” by definition to include washing, cleaning, drying, polishing, detailing or otherwise providing cosmetic care to vehicles by use of hand or high pressure gadgets. This does not include any activities of a garage nature such as servicing and vehicle repair.

Such guidelines and specifications will enable the following;

1. Guidance on site specific design
2. Requirements for each car wash establishment
3. Regularization of existing car washes
4. Regulation of usage (terms and conditions)
5. Inform issuance of trading licenses hence forth

In the absence of such specifications, car washes are seen to be a health and public nuisance. The effects are visible as follows

1. Poor waste management plan
2. Poor drainage and sanitation
3. Impact on traffic/obstruction of visibility

4. Erosion & corrosion of roads by both water run off and car effluents
5. Haphazard parking along the road reserve and in some cases blocking access
6. No uniform for the works
7. Conversion into bars and night parking facilities in the night

Specifications:

a) Drainage

The run off shall be;

1. Clearly directed and isolated from normal surface water drainage systems, unmade ground and porous surfaces.
2. Isolated using channels, gullies, gradient (fall on the surface) and kerbs.
3. Directed to a silt trap or settlement tank to remove larger particles of silt and sediment.
4. Be collected in a sealed system for reuse, discharged to the public foul sewer with prior permission of the local sewer provider or collected in a sealed system for authorized disposal.

b) Design, Location and Signage

The car wash shall be

1. Labeled with proper signage and address with clear entry and exit points.
2. Provide notices for designated washing bays clearly stating the purpose e.g “Washing and cleaning should only be carried out in the bay”.

3. Well enclosed within a boundary wall or chain-link fence as approved by the Directorate of Physical Planning to prevent spillage of water and spray or wind drift out of the designated area.
4. Have procedures and equipment which minimizes water use and solid waste production.
5. Have a clearly marked waste disposal area.
6. Have a set an office block or building adjoined with toilet facilities.
7. Should not be within 150m from a nearby junction or round about.
8. The surface finishes shall be made of concrete or pavers to ease runoff and maintain a clean environment.
9. The space shall also comprise of a green / beautification area to balance the hard and soft spaces.
10. Washing bays shall not neighbor /border with prime properties, banks, embassies, ministry offices, as this will devalue such properties and compromise security and privacy related issues.

c) Inspections

At the point of registration/ regularization, the Car wash premises shall be subject to a joint inspection from a Physical Planner, Building Inspector, Public Health Officer, Environmentalist and Engineer before issuance of a permit.

d) Space Requirements

1. A good rule of thumb to follow concerning lot sizing is 100'-120' deep x a minimum of 75' wide depending on the number of bays. (Typical 4 bay self-serve wash would need a lot 100'-120' deep x 100' wide minimum). An average size of plot in Kampala is 50'x100'.
2. Good access from both directions of traffic flow is also very important and an added advantage.
3. Ideal traffic speed in the branch off area should be under 64 Kmph.
4. Ideal locations are near residential areas, apartment complexes or busy traffic flow routes.

e) Bay & Building Sizing

1. Ideal bay size is 16' wide x 28' long (inside measurements). Truck bays should be 17-18' wide and 28' long. (Smaller bays will work but are not recommended.)
2. Typical pump room is 10'-15' wide x 28' length.
3. Typical bay height is 10' for car bays and 12'-14' for truck bays.

The Purpose of this memo is to submit proposed guidelines and specifications for your consideration and guidance to enable timely advice to developers of Car washes for the issuance of 2014 trading licenses by the Directorate of Revenue.

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