

# Environmental Choice<sup>M</sup> Program

## CERTIFICATION CRITERIA DOCUMENT

### CCD-061



**Product: Commercial Car Wash Services**

### Preamble

Pursuant to paragraph 54 (1)(b) of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*, Environment Canada is pleased to publish the following national guideline on **commercial car wash services** under the auspices of the Environmental Choice<sup>M</sup> Program.

The Environmental Choice Program is designed to support a continuing effort to improve and/or maintain environmental quality by reducing energy and materials consumption and by minimizing the impacts of pollution generated by the production, use and disposal of goods and services available to Canadians.

Wastewater from washing cars contains both water-polluting solids and oxygen-depleting surfactants. Wastewater from home car washing is discharged directly into the environment via storm drain systems. With appropriate controls, commercial car washes are environmentally preferable to home washing.

Commercial facilities typically discharge wastewater into the sanitary sewer system, where it can then be treated by large-scale wastewater treatment facilities. Pretreatment of this wastewater, using interceptors to settle out solids and oily wastes prior to disposal in sanitary sewers, reduces the burden on wastewater treatment facilities.

The use and disposal of chemical compounds, such as detergents, waxes, rinsing agents, tire conditioners and rustproofing agents employed for cleaning and preserving vehicles and in the maintenance of car wash facilities, are of concern. Many of these chemicals are potentially harmful to human health and may be persistent in the environment. A shift to the use of less harmful and more biodegradable compounds will lessen the burden on the environment and reduce health and safety concerns for commercial car wash operators.

Based on a review of currently available life cycle information, the service category requirements will produce an environmental benefit through the **conservation of water**, the **reduction of wastewater loading** and a **reduced demand for harmful and non- biodegradable materials**.

Life cycle review is an ongoing process. As information and technology change, the service category requirements will be reviewed and possibly amended.

Environment Canada anticipates that **commercial car wash services** which conform to this guideline will apply to the Environmental Choice Program for verification and subsequent authority to label the qualifying service with the Environmental Choice EcoLogo<sup>M</sup>.

### Notice

Any reference to a standard means to the latest edition of that standard.

The Environmental Choice Program reserves the right to accept equivalent test data for the test methods specified in this guideline.

## Notice of Intent

It is the intent of the Environmental Choice Program to consider criteria for both washwater and rinsewater recirculation, the disposal of sludge collected by interceptors, and water consumption in future revisions of this guideline.

It is also the intent of the Program to consider the inclusion of the Best Management Practices for Fixed Commercial Vehicle Wash Facilities, developed by Environment Canada for the Fraser River Action Plan, in the next revision of this guideline.

## Interpretation

1. In the following guideline:

**“aromatic hydrocarbon”** means any hydrocarbon compound with a benzene ring in its molecular structure;

**“automatic car wash system”** means either a tunnel or roll-over system used to clean a vehicle, employing either friction washing or touchless washing;

**“car wash cleaning materials”** means products used to clean vehicles or their components, protect them from premature deterioration, or to enhance their appearance. This includes, but is not limited to, detergents, presoak agents, rust inhibitors, white wall tire cleaners, wheel cleaners, and waxes;

**“commercial car wash”** means a facility which provides a car washing service by employing an automatic or self-serve system;

**“contaminant”** means any substance other than those normally discharged by the car wash during its normal operation. This includes, but is not limited to, used engine oil and engine coolant;

**“detergent”** means a cleaning compound used to wash a vehicle;

**“facility maintenance cleaners”** means all compounds used to clean the car wash facility itself. This includes, but is not limited to, floor cleaners and equipment cleaners;

**“friction washing”** means an automatic car wash system whose cleaning implements (brushes or cloths) are designed to contact the vehicle;

**“halogenated hydrocarbon”** means any hydrocarbon compound containing halogens, including fluorine, chlorine, bromine and/or iodine;

**“inherently biodegradable”** is determined using one of the methods described in *OECD Guidelines for Testing of Chemicals, 302A- 302C*;

**“interceptor”** means a gravity separator used to collect and separate oil and suspended solids from the waste water prior to discharge into the sanitary sewer; usually installed below a facility's floor;

**“interceptor waste”** means waste containing separated oil and suspended solids or sludge resulting from the cleaning of the interceptor;

**“OECD”** means Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development;

**“presoak agent”** means a cleaning compound used to wash a vehicle;

**“roll-over car wash”** means a car wash system in which the vehicle remains stationary while automatic cleaning equipment passes over the vehicle;

“**rust inhibitor**” means a material sprayed onto the vehicle’s undercarriage to inhibit the formation of rust and corrosion;

“**sanitary sewer**” means a sewer for the collection and transmission of domestic, commercial, institutional and industrial sewage or any combination thereof;

“**self-serve system**” means a car wash where coins or tokens activate a variety of available cleaning options in what is commonly referred to as the “self-serve bay.” Similar to a full-serve car wash, pre-soak solutions, cleaning solutions, rinse water and wax are usually available, as well as special tire and wheel cleaners;

“**touchless car wash**” means a car wash system in which the pre-soak solutions, cleaning solutions, rinse water as well as wax and rust inhibitors are applied through use of high pressure spraying systems;

“**tunnel system**” means a car wash in which the vehicle moves on a conveyor through a series of automatic washing devices that can clean all surfaces, including the surface of the vehicle, tires, wheel covers, undercarriage, etc.;

“**wax**” means a material used to repel water from the surface of the vehicle and/or protect the vehicle’s finish and produce a shine. It is applied through the use of a spray mechanism;

“**wheel cleaner**” means an alkaline, acidic or solvent-based cleaner used to remove dirt, brake dust, and other debris from wheels and rims; and

“**white wall tire cleaner**” means an alkaline, acidic or solvent-based cleaner used on tires.

## Category Definition

2. This category includes all **commercial car wash services** as further defined in the following subcategories:
  - (a) automatic car washes; and
  - (b) self-serve car washes.

## General Requirements

3. To be authorized to carry the EcoLogo **commercial car wash services** must:
  - (a) meet or exceed all applicable governmental and industrial safety and performance standards; and
  - (b) operate in such a manner that all steps of the process, including the disposal of waste products arising therefrom, will meet the requirements of all applicable governmental acts, by laws and regulations including, for facilities located in Canada, the *Fisheries Act* and the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA)*.

## Process Specific Requirements

4. To be authorized to carry the EcoLogo the **commercial car wash service** must meet the criteria specific to its subcategory.
  - 4.1 The commercial car wash service must:
    - (a) pass all wastewater through an interceptor prior to discharge;

- (b) ensure all wastewater is discharged into the sanitary sewer;
- (c) properly maintain the interceptor by inspecting monthly, and servicing, either in-house or through contracted services:
  - (i) when inspection indicates the bottom sludge exceeds one-third of the depth between the bottom of the chamber and the bottom of the lowest outflow pipe in the last chamber, or when floating oil exceeds five (5) centimetres in the first compartment; or
  - (ii) after a spill of contaminants enters the interceptor which is of significant quantity or quality to impair the operation of the interceptor at the time of the spill or in the future, or will have an affect on normal interceptor discharge water quality; or
  - (iii) at least annually unless required more frequently by law;
- (d) have the floating oil component of interceptor waste transported off-site by a licensed hauler, for recycling or disposal at a licensed hazardous waste management facility;
- (e) have in place a program that includes inspection, maintenance, and replacement where necessary, of spray nozzles, valves and solenoids to minimize water usage;
- (f) use car wash cleaning materials and facility maintenance cleaners that do not require being labelled as poisonous under the Consumer Chemicals and Containers Regulations of the Hazardous Products Act;
- (g) follow manufacturers instructions for proper use of car wash cleaning materials and facility maintenance cleaners in order to maximize product performance and minimize waste;
- (h) not use car wash cleaning materials containing greater than 1% phosphorus by weight of formulation; and
- (i) not use facility maintenance cleaners containing greater than 10% phosphorus by weight of formulation.

4.2 **Commercial car wash services** must use car wash cleaning materials and facility maintenance cleaners that are demonstrated by the supplier or manufacturer, by means of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) or test results, as:

- (a) being inherently biodegradable as determined by whole formulation testing;
- (b) not having a pH lower than 4.5 or greater than 13.5.
- (c) not being formulated or manufactured with:
  - (i) formaldehyde;
  - (ii) halogenated hydrocarbons;
  - (iii) aromatic hydrocarbons;
  - (iv) ozone depleting substances, as listed in The Montreal Protocol;
  - (v) greater than 3% butoxy-ethanol by weight of formulation;
  - (vi) greater than 5% nitrilotriacetic acid including any of its salts by weight of formulation;
  - (vii) greater than 1% free potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide by weight of formulation; or

(viii) hydrofluoric acid.

5. **Self-serve car washes** must:
  - (a) provide clear notification to customers prohibiting the disposal of contaminants into the sewer system.

## Verification

6. To verify a claim that a service meets the criteria listed in the guideline, the Environmental Choice Program will require access, as is its normal practice, to relevant quality control records and the right of access to facilities on an unannounced basis.
7. Compliance with section 3(b) shall be attested to by a signed statement of the Chief Executive Officer or the equivalent officer of the manufacturer. The Environmental Choice Program shall be advised in writing immediately by the licensee of any noncompliance which may occur during the term of the license. On the occurrence of any noncompliance, the license may be suspended or terminated as stipulated in the license agreement.

## Conditions for EcoLogo Use

8. The EcoLogo may appear on promotional and/or advertising materials, provided that the service meets the requirements in this guideline.
9. It is recommended that criteria statement appear with the EcoLogo whenever the EcoLogo is used in association with the **commercial car wash service**. The intent of this statement is to provide clarification as to why the product was certified and to indicate constraints to which the certification is limited. This is to ensure no ambiguity over, or misrepresentation of, the reason(s) for certification.

The criteria statement should be specific to the product's sub-category. For sub-category 2(a), the recommended criteria statement is "Automatic commercial car wash"; and for sub-category 2(b), the recommended criteria statement is "Self-serve commercial car wash". The licensee may propose other wording for the criteria statement, but any such proposed wording must be approved by the Environmental Choice Program.

10. All licensees and authorized users must comply with the Environmental Choice Program's *Guide to Proper Use of the EcoLogo<sup>M</sup>* regarding the format and usage of the EcoLogo.
11. Any accompanying advertising must conform with the relevant requirements stipulated in this guideline, the license agreement and the Environmental Choice Program's *Guide to Proper Use of the EcoLogo<sup>M</sup>*.

***For additional copies of this guideline or for more information about the Environmental Choice Program, please contact: TerraChoice Environmental Services Inc.,  
1280 Old Innes Road, Suite 801, Ottawa, Ontario, K1B 5M7,  
Telephone: (613) 247-1900, Facsimile: (613) 247-2228, Email: [ecoinfo@terrachoice.ca](mailto:ecoinfo@terrachoice.ca)***

# EcoLogo™ Program Interpretation Document CCD-061

## Equivalent Testing Methodologies for Biodegradability



### Interpretation:

The EcoLogo™ Standard for Commercial Car Wash Services, CCD-061, has a biodegradation requirement that must be met. The following test method is currently indicated in the standard as a permissible biodegradability test:

- OECD 302B

Upon further examination, the EcoLogo Program will now also accept the following Commercial Car Wash biodegradation test for CCD-061 Certification, only where the products to be tested have a high degree of volatile components and tend to foam:

- OECD ready biodegradability 301D

### Basis for Interpretation:

The EcoLogo Program reserves the right to accept alternative test methods to those specified in a particular standard. Equivalency is determined through a review and comparison of:

- The methodology and procedures themselves
- The reliability, repeatability and reproducibility of the methods
- The materials, equipment and test conditions required
- The requirements for reporting of data and test results
- The consideration of peer and expert review of the methodologies

In this instance, the EcoLogo Program will allow for OECD 302B test to be substituted with the OECD ready biodegradability 301D test. The 301D test is a closed system test that will still provide the requirements for ready biodegradability while preventing the loss of product by volatilization and foaming.

### Affected EcoLogo Standards:

This interpretation applies only to CCD-061, Commercial Car Wash Services.

### Additional Notes:

For further clarification as to this interpretation document, please contact the EcoLogo Program at 1-800-478-0399

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### Interpretation:

The EcoLogo™ Standard for Commercial Car Wash Services, CCD-061, has a biodegradation requirement that must be met. The following test method is currently indicated in the standard as a permissible biodegradability test:

- OECD 301 series

Upon further examination, the EcoLogo Program will now also accept the following biodegradation test for CCD-061 Certification:

- ASTM E1270

### Basis for Interpretation:

The EcoLogo Program reserves the right to accept alternative test methods to those specified in a particular standard. Equivalency is determined through a review and comparison of:

- The methodology and procedures themselves
- The reliability, repeatability and reproducibility of the methods
- The materials, equipment and test conditions required
- The requirements for reporting of data and test results
- The consideration of peer and expert review of the methodologies

In this instance, the EcoLogo Program will allow for the OECD 301 series of biodegradability tests to be substituted with ASTM E1270.

### Affected EcoLogo Standards:

This interpretation applies only to CCD-061, Commercial Car Wash Services.

### Additional Notes:

For further clarification as to this interpretation document, please contact the EcoLogo Program at 1-800-478-0399 or 613-247-1900