



North Carolina Professional Carwash Association

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Conservation Certification Program

For the Professional Vehicle Wash Industry

Purpose of Water Conservation Certification Program:

The purpose of the water conservation 'Vehicle Wash Certification Program' is to promote best management practices and recognize year-round conservation efforts. For *Public Utilities* the incentives are reductions in peak demand and year-round demand, resulting in delayed imposition of drought restrictions system-wide. *Public Utilities* also benefits from the positive public relations of a public/private partnership program. The principle incentive to the professional vehicle wash owner is to receive "credit" for proactively conserving water not only during a drought but also throughout the year. An additional incentive is positive promotional signage, which can be placed at the business, to show participation in the program.

The Vehicle Wash Conservation Certification Program is a voluntary program, in which the wash owner/operator may request certification from and be recognized by *the North Carolina Professional Carwash Association* with regard to water conservation. A principle advantage of certification is that certified vehicle wash facilities will be in compliance with Rule 15a NCAC 02.E .0614 of the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission (Authority S.L. 2002-167) Exceptional Drought requirements on a continuous year round basis and GS 143-355.2. The certified Water Conserving Vehicle Wash should receive consideration by local Public Utilities for conserving water according to Rule 15a NCAC 02.E .0607 (e) of the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission (Authority S.L. 2002-167) and GS 143-355.2.

Certification Process:

To participate, a vehicle wash operation must initially establish a base line water consumption (Exhibit A) per service prior to any modifications to wash operation or systems, submit a completed application, and have an on-site inspection for each site to be certified. A licensed plumbing contractor will annually certify the water conservation program compliance. *North Carolina Professional Carwash Association* will then issue the certifications for those facilities that have met the criteria.

If a facility is found to be out of compliance with the terms of the certification program, signage will be removed and certification status will be revoked until the facility once again meets the certification program standards.

Certified facilities will renew certification annually following an inspection of the vehicle wash by a licensed plumber. The cost to certify vehicle washes will be self-funded by the payment of a certification fee by each vehicle wash facility, including self-

service locations with an automatic, or stand alone in-bay automatic with a gasoline facility, conveyors, mobile and hand washing facilities.

Certification Fees

Initial certification fee through the NCPWA will be \$100 one hundred dollars per facility. The vehicle wash facility that achieves certification will receive certification signage and decal to display the one year period of certification. They will also receive a certificate for record of year certified.

Renewal certification fees through the NCPWA will be \$50 fifty dollars per facility. The vehicle wash facility that renews certification will receive certification signage and decal to display the one year period of certification. They will also receive a certificate for record of year certified.

Criteria and Standards:

NCPWA Members may qualify for certification as a water conserving vehicle wash, the vehicle wash facility must demonstrate to a licensed plumber or *Public Utilities* that each of the following criteria has been satisfied. Also, the owner/operator of the vehicle wash must agree to continue meeting each criteria for the period of certification. The criteria and standards for each vehicle wash facility type, are as follows:

All Vehicle Wash Facilities:

- Establish base line water consumption per service prior to any modifications to wash operation or systems.
- Operation documents provided on site.
- Operator must perform a monthly water conservation inspection.
- Operator must maintain a logbook that includes the monthly operator inspections, nozzle replacements, and other activities relating to the program.
- All spot-free reverse osmosis concentrate (reject water) must be recycled and reused.
- All chamois wringers are to have a positive shut-off valve.
- High Pressure spray nozzles must be replaced annually,
- Toilets must be ultra-low flow 1.6 gallon per flush type,
- Hoses or faucets must be attended or shut off, and have a positive shut off valve.
- Efficient weep management system (including either weep recovery or intermittent weep systems),
- All water leaks should be repaired upon discovery.
- Impervious areas may not be cleaned by washing, and
- Driveways must be washed with high pressure, low water volume systems for health and safety purposes only.

Self-Service Facilities:

NCPWA will certify all self-service vehicle washes that meet the applicable criteria listed above, and which maintain high pressure wash nozzles and pump systems that use 3 gallons per minute or less, and have reduced water consumption by 20% per vehicle.

Conveyor Facilities:

In addition to meeting all applicable criteria listed above for all vehicle washes, each full-service vehicle wash facility will also be required to comply with the following criteria in order to qualify for certification under the NCPWA Vehicle Wash Conservation Program:

- Water must be recycled to the collector tanks to be used for the washing phase.
- Automatic high-level water cut-offs must be installed in all towel and chamois washing machines.
- Nozzles should be aligned and timed to minimize water loss.
- *If no recycle system is in operation, certification will require that the carwash achieve a 20% reduction in water use per vehicle.*

In-Bay Automatic Facilities:

In addition to meeting the applicable above-listed criteria for all vehicle washes, each roll-over/in-bay vehicle wash facility will also be required to comply with the following criteria in order to obtain certification under the *NCPCWA* Vehicle Wash Conservation Program:

- All chamois wringer sinks must have positive shut off valves.
- Where applicable, a 5-second dwell time should be created before the customer's vehicle exits the bay to enable water to run off the vehicle into the bay collection pit.
- Nozzles should be aligned and timed to minimize water loss.
- *If no recycle system is in operation, certification will require that the carwash achieve a 20% reduction in water use per vehicle.*

Mobile Wash and Detailers:

NCPCWA will certify all mobile vehicle washes and detailers that meet the applicable criteria listed above, and which maintain high pressure wash nozzles and pump systems that use 3 gallons per minute or less, and have reduced water consumption by 20% per vehicle. Mobile vehicle washers and detailers must capture and dispose of all water through a location approved by the local sanitary sewer system or in an approved on-site system.

Benefits and Incentives:

NCPCWA voluntary certification program includes benefits such as:

- recognition for year-round water conservation;
- use of signage for display to indicate the vehicle wash facility is certified as a water conservation wash facility;
- use of a) logo and/or b) slogan approved by *NCPCWA* in advertising, mail outs, and other promotional material, indicating certification;
- The business will also be included in list of facilities that have been certified for water conservation compliance to be made public by *NCPCWA*.

Periods Of Exceptional Drought

During Periods of Exceptional Drought Certified Vehicle Wash facilities that do not recycle at least 50% of their water, will comply with any further industrial or commercial water conservation requirements incrementally beyond the established requirements within the certification program.