



European Parking Association Richartzstraße 10 D-50667 Köln

**To all full members of the EPA  
by email**

February 9, 2010

Dear EPA member,

after more than a year of preparations and discussions we are proud to present the newly revised assessment scheme for the European Parking Standard Award.

This assessment scheme has been prepared by an international working group\*. The draft scheme, composed and tested by the group has been commented by the EPA member organisations and finally by the Policy & Strategy Committee and EPA Board.

The ESPA was constituted about 15 years ago to help improve the quality of parking in Europe. The assessment scheme is challenging but achievable for most car parks and, at the least, every new built car park should comply to the standard. It must be clear that car parks compliant to the Parking Standard offer visitors a trustworthy environment, providing safe and comfortable parking service to customers.

The changes to the requirements for car parks can be best seen by the development of cars over the years: today's Opel Astra and Renault Megane measure about 1.80 metres in width - the same as the large Mercedes Benz from the 1970's! Developments like this cannot be ignored by the parking industry.

Not every existing car park will meet the new requirements. Car parks that do not meet the Parking Standard requirements are not disqualified from operation, but will not be able to display the plaque which demonstrates compliance to the Parking Standard.

In order to demonstrate a well balanced service package for customers, car parks need to meet a set of requirements in a tiered system:

- A small set of mandatory criteria. Those criteria represent basic requirements for safe parking and must be fulfilled.
- A comprehensive system of points-scoring requirements, based on facilities and services offered to the visitors of the car park:
  - Total of 103 individual items are scored, with a minimum of 160 points required to gain the award. Items can score up to a maximum of 300 points.
  - To ensure an overall well balanced parking product, minimum scores are required for ten categories. Minimum scores for these categories total 120 points.



- Under performance in some categories (above the minimum level for that category) may be compensated by exceptional performance in other categories.
- Finally the score may be adjusted up- or downwards based on specific positive or negative issues encountered.

Under the old scheme, over 200 car parks in Europe have received the ESPA award and these remain valid until 2013.

In future, ESPA awards and the plaque associated with them will be dated, and it is up to the car park operator to decide when they wish to apply for a new assessment and plaque.

EPA has delegated the assessment and presentation of the ESPA-awards to the national parking associations. A national parking association may increase the minimum number of points needed to qualify for the award above 160, however this number cannot be reduced. National parking associations may decide to re-evaluate car parks with ESPA awards before the operators come forward.

Every ESPA awarded to a parking facility should be reported at the EPA Secretary in Cologne for statistical and marketing purposes.

To make the ESPA scheme recognized by visitors, thus increasing the value of the scheme for the operators, marketing and publications will be organized by EPA and materials will be provided to the country organizations.

We hope this scheme will contribute to better parking in Europe and many ESPA's will be awarded in 2010 and following years,

With best wishes

Nick Lester  
EPA President

\* Participants in the working group were: (in alphabetical order) Bernd Beer, Jordi Bonet Vendrell, Jean-Jacques Decaesteke, Peter Guest, Antonio Cidade Moura and Peter Martens