2006 EPA Air Quality Regulations for Dry Cleaning Operations

This fact sheet highlights additional requirements for perchloroethylene (perc) dry cleaners. You must continue compliance with the existing rules for record keeping, monitoring, and inspection requirements.

On **July 27, 2006**, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published regulations for perc dry cleaners in the Federal Register. The regulations revise the 1993 rules affecting this small business industry sector.

The Perc Rule Revisions:

- requires additional emissions controls for new drycleaner construction or reconstruction
- strengthens monitoring and record keeping requirements
- requires Notification of the Status of Compliance with all provisions of the revised rule by **July 28, 2008**
- bans new construction of perc dry cleaners located in residential buildings (co-located)
- phases out perc use at co-located drycleaners by **December 21, 2020**
- eliminates the use of transfer machines after **July 27, 2008**

The Rule for Most Perc Dry Cleaners:

Rule Requires additional Emissions Controls and Monitoring

- A new or used dry cleaning machine installed after **December 21, 2005**, must be a dry to dry refrigerated machine that recirculates the perc vapor steam through a non-vented carbon adsorber before the door is opened.
- The carbon adsorber must be desorbed according to manufacturer's instruction.
- Beginning **July 27, 2006**, for machines equipped with refrigerated condensers, the high and low side refrigerant pressures must be monitored weekly and maintained within the manufacturer's specified range.

Rule Monitoring, Record Keeping, Reporting Compliance Dates

- Dry cleaners existing before **December 21, 2005** must comply with these additional requirements by **July 27, 2008.**
- New installations constructed or reconstructed on or after **December 21, 2005** must comply by **July 27, 2006** or at start up.
- A notification is required of the compliance status with all provisions of the rule (1993 and 2006) to be sent by certified mail to the NMED Air Quality Bureau by **July 28, 2008.**

Rule Strengthens Monitoring and Record keeping Requirements

- On machines with **non-vented carbon adsorbers**, the dry cleaner must determine weekly of the final perc concentration is less than or equal to **300 parts per million (ppm)**.
- The perc concentration must be measured with a colorimetric detector tube or perc gas analyzer in the open space above the article at the rear of the dry cleaning machine drum immediately upon opening the dry cleaning machine door.
- On machines with **vented carbon adsorbers**, the perc concentration is measured weekly at the outlet vent of the carbon adsorber on the last machine cycle prior to desorption of the carbon adsorber. The perc concentration must be less than or equal to **100 ppm**.
- The colorimetric detector tube or perc gas analyzer must be designed to measure a concentration of **300 ppm** by volume of perc in air with an accuracy of **±75 ppm** by volume.
- At least once a month, the dry cleaner is required to check all of the same components checked in the weekly perceptible leak inspection with either a halogenated hydrocarbon detector or PCE gas analyzer that is operated according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- The leak checks must be conducted while the equipment is operating.
- The halogenated hydrocarbon detector or PCE gas analyzer must be capable of detecting perc concentration equal to or greater than **25 ppm**.
- The dates and results of all inspection, monitoring and repairs must be recorded.

Rule Bans New Construction of Co-located Perc Dry Cleaners

- After **July 27, 2006**, a dry cleaner can not construct or reconstruct a perc dry cleaning system in any dwelling or housing in which people reside (co-location).
- The ban does not apply to short-term housing that is occupied by the same person for a period of less than 180 days (such as a hotel room).

Rule Phases out Perc Use at existing Co-located Dry Cleaners

- After **December 21, 2020**, all dry cleaners must discontinue the use of perc in a building with a residence (co-location).
- Dry cleaners constructed after **December 21, 2005** and before **July 13, 2006**, must discontinue the use of perc in a building with a residence by **July 27, 2009**.
- This group is required to have a vapor barrier enclosure to operate (such as a room enclosing the perc dry cleaning equipment) by **July 27, 2006**. Fire codes apply to the construction of the vapor barrier enclosure.

Rule Eliminates the use of Transfer Machine Systems

- After **July 27, 2008**, all dry cleaners must discontinue the use of transfer machine systems.

What if I choose to ignore this?

If you chose to ignore the new regulations you can be fined. Make sure you are in compliance!

Do you still have questions?

If you need additional guidance regarding your dry cleaning business, you can contact the Air Quality Bureau's Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) at **(505)222-9507 or (505)222-9583.**

Remember, the SBEAP is not an enforcement program; we are here to help you through the air quality process!

We thank you for your interest in keeping New Mexico beautiful!