



## **Air Quality Regulations for Small Dry Cleaning Operations** (For facilities located outside of Bernalillo County)

Federal air quality regulations require all dry cleaning operations to control air emissions of perchloroethylene (perc) in order to operate. Air emission regulations are necessary to preserve the quality of the air that all New Mexicans breathe.

***The Federal Regulations are found in 40 CFR 63 Subpart M.***

The federal regulation affects all dry cleaners who use perc in both transfer and dry-to-dry machines. How you are affected depends on:

- the installation date of your machines
- the type of machinery you use, and
- the amount of perc you buy each year

The following information will help you determine what you need to do to keep your business in compliance with the law.

### ***Installation Date***

The installation date of your dry cleaning equipment is very important, since this determines what air pollution control devices are required for you to operate them.

**"Existing"** machines were purchased or installed before December 9, 1991. **"New"** machines were purchased or installed after this date.

### **Are there any exceptions to those dates?**

One exception are those **transfer** machines installed between **December 9, 1991 and September 22, 1993**; these machines are considered **"existing"** since the regulation did not come into effect until the latter date.

*You must have proof when your machine was either installed or purchased so that a determination can be made.*

### ***How much Perc do you use?***

You are a "Small" drycleaner if:

- You have only transfer machines and **purchase less than 200 gallons** of perc per year, or
- You have only dry-to-dry machines or have both transfer and dry-to-dry machines, and **purchase less than 140 gallons** of perc per year.

### **What if my Perc levels exceed those listed above?**

Dry cleaners that exceed these levels for perc purchases are considered "large" and must install perc vapor recovery systems.

#### **REMEMBER!**

**THE REGULATION IS BASED ON PERC PURCHASES,  
NOT PERC USE!**

If you purchase more than is allowed by the regulation, you are no longer considered a "Small" dry cleaner and must use more stringent perc vapor recovery systems in order to operate. So be careful to buy only the perc that you need and do not exceed the allowable maximum purchase amount for your operation.

For more information, consult the "**Plain English Guide for Perc Dry Cleaners**", an EPA book available from the Air Quality Bureau's Small Business Environmental Assistance Program. You can contact us at **(505)222-9507 or 222-9583** to receive a free copy of this book.

### ***What if I buy a new Dry-to-Dry machine?***

All "new" dry-to-dry machines are required by law to have a main perc vapor recovery system.

### ***What if I buy a new Transfer machine?***

"New" transfer machines that use perc **CANNOT BE INSTALLED OR OPERATED.**

***Record keeping requirements for ALL Dry Cleaning Facilities:***

All records are to be maintained for a minimum of 5 years. These records must include:

1. Logs of previous 12-month perc purchase totals including receipts;
2. Logs of previous 12-month rolling total of perc usage;
3. Repair logs which list inspection dates, required repairs and the date of repair completion;
4. Leak detection inspection logs including location of leak, parts ordered, and date repair was completed;
5. Temperature measurements monitoring logs for refrigerated condensers; and
6. Concentration measurements monitoring logs for carbon adsorbers.

**What if I chose to ignore this?**

If you chose to ignore the law you can be fined, so make sure you are in compliance!

**Do you still have Questions?**

If you need additional guidance or record keeping forms for your dry cleaning business, you can contact the Air Quality Bureau's Small Business Environmental Assistance Program at:

**(505)222-9507 or 222-9583**

**Remember, the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program is not an enforcement program! We are here to help you through the process!**

**We thank you for your interest in keeping New Mexico Beautiful!**