

NEW FEDERAL REGULATIONS FOR PERC DRYCLEANERS

On July 27, 2006, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published new regulations for perc drycleaners in the Federal Register. The regulations revise the 1993 rules affecting this small business group.

THE NEW RULE FOR MOST PERC DRYCLEANERS....

A notification is required of the compliance status to be sent by registered mail to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality by July 28, 2008.

1. Emission controls and monitoring.

- All machines installed after December 21, 2005, must be a dry to dry refrigerated machine that recirculates the perc vapor stream through a non-vented carbon adsorber (or equivalent control device). The carbon adsorber must be desorbed according to manufacturer's instructions.
- 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.

2. Monitoring/Recordkeeping/Reporting Compliance Dates.

- Drycleaners existing before December 21, 2005 must comply with additional monitoring and record keeping requirements by July 28, 2008.
- New installations constructed or reconstructed on or after December 21, 2005 must comply with additional monitoring and record keeping requirements by July 27, 2006 or at start up.

3. Additional monitoring and record keeping requirements

- On machines with non vented carbon adsorbers, the drycleaner must determine weekly if the final perc concentration is less than or equal to 300 ppm. The colorimetric detector tube or perc gas analyzer must be designed to measure a concentration of 300 parts per million by volume of perc in air with an accuracy of ± 75 parts per million by volume.
- 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 100 parts per million by volume of perc in air with an accuracy of ± 25 parts per million by volume.
- The perc concentration must be measured with a colorimetric detector tube or perc gas analyzer in the open space above the articles at the rear of the drycleaning machine drum immediately upon opening the dry cleaning machine door.
- At least once a month, the drycleaner 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 and PCE gas analyzer must be capable of detecting a perc concentration equal to or greater than 25 ppm.
- The dates and results of all inspections, monitoring and repairs must be recorded.

THE NEW RULE FOR CO-LOCATED PERC DRYCLEANERS ...

1. Bans new construction of co-located perc drycleaners.

- After July 13, 2006, a drycleaner can not construct or reconstruct a perc drycleaning system in any dwelling or housing in which people reside (co-location).
- This 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).

2. Phases out perc use at existing co-located drycleaners.

- After December 21, 2020, all drycleaners must discontinue the use of perc in a building with a residence (co-location).
- Drycleaners 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.
- Drycleaners are required to have a vapor barrier enclosure to operate perc machine by July 27, 2006.

3. Eliminates the use of transfer machine systems.

- After July 27, 2008, all drycleaners must discontinue the use of transfer machine systems

This only highlights rule revisions that mandate additional requirements for drycleaners. Facilities must continue compliance with existing rules! For additional information and help call the Small Business/Small Community Assistance Program: 1-800-259-2890