

U.S. EPA Requirements for Perc Drycleaners

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revised the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for perchloroethylene (perc) drycleaners on July 13, 2006. Several of the requirements of the revised NESHAP go beyond what is required under the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) Part 232 regulation for perc drycleaners that went into effect in 1997. This fact sheet summarizes these new requirements.

What Are The New Requirements?

The most significant of the changes prohibits new perc drycleaning machines from operating in residential buildings. In addition, existing perc drycleaning operations will have to stop cleaning with perc or move to a non-residential building by 2020. Please note that moving a perc machine requires a variance from the NYSDEC. Another option is to convert to an alternative cleaning solvent.

Why Were These New Requirements Passed?

The EPA regulation for perc drycleaning was originally issued in 1993. In December, 2005, the EPA indicated that the agency "evaluated the remaining risk to public health and the environment following implementation of the 1993 technology-based rule and is proposing more stringent standards in order to protect public health with an ample margin of safety."

What Do I Have To Do?

New Perc Drycleaning Machines Located in Residential Buildings

- Drycleaning machines located in residential buildings and installed after July 27, 2006, may not use perc.
- Perc drycleaning machines installed in residential buildings between December 21, 2005 (the date of the proposed rule) and July 13, 2006 (when the final rule was issued) must eliminate perc use by July 27, 2009.

Existing Machines in Residential Buildings

- All perc drycleaning machines installed in residential buildings before December 21, 2005 (the date EPA proposed the NESHAP revisions) must stop operation by December 21, 2020.
- Perc dry cleaning plants located in a residential building will not be able to replace their existing perc machine when it wears out with another perc machine. When your machine needs to be replaced, you must switch to an alternative solvent or move to a non-residential building.
- Both of these compliance options require a new, modified or amended registration certificate or operating permit from the NYSDEC.

New Monitoring Requirement

Recently Purchased Machines

If a new 4th generation perc machine was installed after December 21, 2005, at any new or existing drycleaning facility, it must be checked weekly to verify that the perc vapor level in the drum at the end of the cycle is below 300 parts per million (ppm). Drycleaners will need to purchase a colorimetric pump testing device to perform these measurements.

How Do I Prove that I Am Complying?

There is one additional reporting requirement in the new standards which applies to NYS drycleaners. This will be a one-page “Notice of Compliance Status” form that you will receive in 2007. It must be returned by registered mail to EPA and NYSDEC, postmarked by July 28, 2008. NYS drycleaners are already required to report most of the information under Part 232. *The following information must be provided, and the form must be signed by a responsible official who shall certify its accuracy:*

1. The name and address of the owner or operator;
2. The address (that is, physical location) of the drycleaning facility;
3. If they are located in a building with a residence(s), even if the residence is vacant at the time of this notification;
4. If they are located in a building with no other tenants, leased space, or owner occupants;
5. The yearly PCE solvent consumption;
6. Whether or not they are in compliance with each applicable requirement of the National Perchloroethylene Air Emissions Standards Drycleaning Facilities, 40 CFR 63.320.

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