

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Environmental Protection Division, Air Protection Branch

4244 International Parkway, Suite 120, Atlanta, Georgia 30354

404/363-7000

Noel Holcomb, Commissioner
Carol A. Couch, Ph.D., Director

September 19, 2006

Dear Perchloroethylene Dry Cleaner Owner/Operator:

New environmental regulations will affect your industry July 27, 2008.

On July 27, 2006, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) toughened the rules that limit perchloroethylene (perc) emissions from all dry cleaning facilities. (This regulation is in addition to the original National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Perchloroethylene Dry Cleaning, 40 CFR Part 63 Subpart M.) The EPA passed this regulation to reduce the cancer risk associated with perc.

For ALL existing dry cleaning facilities that use less than 2100 gallons of perc per year, the final rule:

- Requires the use of an enhanced Leak Detection and Repair (LDAR) program by July 27, 2008. The enhanced LDAR program for dry-to-dry machines requires the use of a halogenated leak detector on a monthly basis beginning July 27, 2008. Facilities will also be required to do perceptible leak detection on a biweekly basis for small area sources (< 140 gallons annual perc usage) or a weekly basis for large area sources (< 2100 gallons annual perc usage). A perceptible leak means any perc vapor or liquid leaks that are obvious from smelling, seeing or feeling them.
- Prohibits the use of perc transfer and vented machines. A transfer machine is a multiple-machine dry cleaning operation in which washing and drying are performed in different machines. Transfer machines installed before December 9, 1991 must be removed or disabled by July 27, 2008. Transfer machines installed between December 9, 1991 and September 22, 1993 must be removed or disabled by July 27, 2008. New perc vented machines, defined as machines installed after July 27, 2006, are banned. A vented machine vents into the atmosphere during some phase of the dry cleaning cycle. New machines must be non-vented, dry-to-dry type with a refrigerated condenser and secondary carbon absorber.

In addition, the revised rule also requires the elimination of all perc machines in co-residential buildings by December 21, 2020. (A co-residential building is defined as a building with at least one residence, even if it is vacant.) After December 21, 2005, new perc dry cleaning machines cannot be installed in co-residential buildings. By December 21, 2020, all perc machines in co-residential buildings must be removed or

disabled. New machines in co-residential buildings must use a technology that does not use perc. After December 21, 2020, no perc dry cleaning machines will be allowed in co-residential buildings.

Unannounced inspections by the Division will occur to determine compliance with these regulations.

If you have any questions concerning these regulations, please call the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program at 404/362-4842. For compliance issues, please contact Art Stelson at 404/363-7116.

The complete revised rule can be downloaded from the following web address:
<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/dryperc/fr27jy06.pdf>.

Sincerely,

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Stationary Source Compliance Program

Lee Tate, P.E.
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Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

AWS

C: EPD District Offices
John Williams – Hazardous Waste Branch