



BAY AREA  
AIR QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT

## Compliance Tips for Automotive Repair Facilities performing Solvent Cleaning

Do you plan to **clean Automotive, Mechanical or other Parts** using a cold cleaner, parts washer or wipes, using solvent? If you answered yes, then you are subject to Regulation 8, Rule 16 (8-16) Solvent Cleaning Operations or Regulation 8, Rule 4 (8-4) General Solvent and Surface Coatings Operations of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District).



### What types of “Solvent Cleaning Operations” are covered under 8-16?

Any processes used to clean or dry metal and non-metal surfaces typically using a cold, vapor or conveyORIZED solvent cleaner is subject to 8-16. This includes **parts cleaning as part of automotive repair and maintenance.**



### What types of “General Solvent and Surface Cleaning Operations” are covered under 8-4

Any surface preparation, typically by **wipe cleaning** with a rag, kim wipe, or Q-tip wetted with a solvent is subject to 8-4. This type of surface preparation is used to remove dirt, oil or grease from surfaces. **Only solvents with a VOC of 50 grams per liter (g/l) or 0.42 pounds per gallon (lb/gal) can be used for wipe cleaning.**



### As an Owner of an Automotive Repair Facility how do I make sure I’m in Compliance with these Regulations?

When you clean parts or equipment using solvent, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are released into the air, where they react to form ozone, a major component of smog. Ozone is harmful to health, crops, and property. The Air District limits the amount of VOC allowed in the cold cleaner, on the wipes or in parts washer you use. So before you clean any parts, make sure you **know the following guidelines:**



## Cold Cleaners or Parts Washers

**Know the VOC content of the cleaning solution you are using.** The Air District only allows the following equipment, using the indicated cleaning solutions:

- Cleaning solutions with a VOC of 50 g/l (0.42 lb/gal); **or**
- VMS Cleaning solutions (ethylated Siloxane) **or**
- Small-unheated solvent cleaners that contain less than one gallon of solvent or have a surface areas of less than 1ft<sup>2</sup>.



## Wipe Cleaning

The Air Districts only allows the following cleaning solutions for wipe cleaning intended for surface preparation:

- Cleaning solutions with a VOC of 50 g/l (0.42 lb / gal); **or**
- Exempt cleaning solutions: Acetone, methyl acetate, VMS (Siloxanes) and parachlorobenzotrifluoride (PCBTF or Oxysol 100).



## Operations and Housekeeping

If you perform either type of cleaning, in order to prevent air pollution **you must take the following measures:**

- Cold cleaners or parts cleaners must be operated and maintained in proper working order
- Cold cleaners or parts cleaners must have closing lids or remote reservoirs
- Liquid solvent leaks must be repaired immediately or you must shut off the leaking equipment
- If your parts cleaner has a spray attachment it must flow constantly and not be a fine or shower type spray
- When you clean parts do not take them out of the cleaner until they are dry and not dripping
- Solvent rags used in wipe cleaning must be kept in a closed container at all times for disposal or storage
- Solvent and waste solvent must be stored in closed containers.



## **Instructions and Recordkeeping**

If you use a parts washer with a cleaning solution containing VOC of 50 g/l (0.42 lb/gal), you only have to observe the following requirements:

- Make sure your cleaner has a permanent, conspicuous label summarizing how to operate it
- Keep your solvent purchase orders or a VOC Tech or MSDS sheet to prove the solvent used contains less than 50 g/l (0.42 lb/ gal).

If you do wipe cleaning you must observe the following requirements:

- Keep a list of the wipe cleaners you're using and Tech or MSDS sheets showing their VOC
- Record how much wipe cleaning solvent you use, such that you can total those numbers for an annually summary
- Record monthly how much wipe cleaning solvent you use
- Keep copies of your wipe cleaning solvent usage records for two years.



## **Where can I get a VOC Tech sheet or MSDS to prove the solvent in my cleaner is less than 50 g/l or 0.42 lb/gal?**

If this information is not automatically supplied to you when you buy your solvent, you can get one by calling your solvent supplier.



## **As an Owner or Operator of an Automotive Repair Facility how do I get more information on these Regulations?**

To find out more about these regulations, you can call the Compliance and Enforcement Division Compliance Assistance Hotline at 415-749-4999 or get a copy of either regulation from the following link:

<http://www.baaqmd.gov/dst/regulations/index.asp>