ATTENTION: DRY CLEANING OPERATIONS USING PERCHLOROETHYLENE (PERC)

SUBJECT: FACILITIES SUBJECT TO PHASE-OUT OF PERCHLOROETHYLENE DRY CLEANING MACHINES

By July 1, 2010, the following dry cleaning facilities with Perchlorethylene (PERC) solvent machines must either replace the equipment or cease operating and must remove the PERC equipment from service:

● Co-residential dry cleaning operations;
● Operations using converted machines with PERC solvent;
● Operations with PERC solvent machines manufactured prior to July 1, 1995 or with an unknown manufacture date.

Any of these dry cleaner operations that fail to cease operating their PERC machines by July 1, 2010 are in violation of the Air District’s Regulation for Perchloroethylene and Synthetic Solvent Dry Cleaning (Regulation 11-16) and state law (California Air Resources Board ATCM for Emissions of Perchloroethylene from Dry Cleaning Operations - California Code of Regulation, Section 93109, Title 17).

Also, after July 1, 2010, all dry cleaning operations with PERC solvent equipment with a date of manufacture after July 1, 1995 must either replace the equipment or cease operating when the machine reaches 15 years of age. Some of these machines will reach the 15 year age limit within the coming year.

The Air District will take enforcement action on those dry cleaners not in compliance by the deadline and they will be issued a citation; however, some non-complying dry cleaners will be allowed to operate up to July 1, 2011 while working toward compliance provided the following actions are taken:

The owner/operator must contact the District’s Legal Division representative and enter into a Compliance and Settlement Agreement (Compliance Schedule) to comply with these requirements. Co-residential facilities are NOT eligible for the Compliance Schedule Agreement and must comply by July 1, 2010. A dry cleaning facility located within the same building as a residence or that shares a common wall, floor or ceiling with a residence is “co-residential.”
Contact information:

Office of the District Counsel
939 Ellis Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
(415) 749-4920

The Compliance Schedule is a legally binding contract and will include the following elements:

- Extended deadlines to complete the phase-out of the PERC machines; and
- Penalties for being in violation:
  - Eligible non-complying Dry Cleaners will pay cumulative penalties for each quarter of non-compliance:
    - 1st quarter - $250
    - 2nd quarter - an additional $500
    - 3rd quarter - an additional $750
    - 4th quarter - an additional $1000

The maximum penalty for one year of non-compliance to July 1, 2011 is $2500.

Failure to meet the extended deadlines, or to comply with the Compliance Schedule, can result in higher penalties.

Note: The District reserves the right to change or modify these enforcement procedures at any time, without prior notification.

More Information can be obtained from the following sources:

- For further questions regarding this Advisory, contact Janet Simon, Air Quality Specialist, at (415) 749-4780.
- For compliance assistance, call (415) 749-4999, the Compliance Counselor Hotline.
- For permit assistance or Authority to Construct application forms, visit http://www.baaqmd.gov/pmt/index.htm or call (415) 749-4990, Engineering.

Kelly J. Wee
Director of Compliance and Enforcement
Bay Area Air Quality Management District