



## Management Options for Chlorinated Solvent Drycleaning Equipment Taken Out of Service October, 2008

Generally, once drycleaning equipment is taken out of service, the drycleaning machine, associated ancillary equipment, and drycleaning solvents contained within this equipment are considered solid wastes. If chlorinated solvents have been used, many of these wastes will also be hazardous wastes subject to recordkeeping requirements and specific time limits for disposal. In some cases, use of petroleum solvents may also generate hazardous waste.

There are basically three options for management of drycleaning equipment that have been used with chlorinated solvents such as perchloroethylene (aka "perc") when the equipment is taken out of service.

### 1. If the drycleaning equipment is to be relocated or put into temporary storage for continued use in drycleaning operations:

In this option, the equipment and chlorinated solvent are not waste. **However, if the equipment remains unused for a period greater than 90 days, the solvent could be considered abandoned in lieu of disposal and in most cases will become regulated as hazardous waste.**

The drycleaning facility owner or operator should place and keep in the facility's file a notice describing the sale and disposition of the old equipment (who, when, how, and where of ownership transfer).

Regulations of the state and federal Departments of Transportation should be consulted for any prohibition on transportation of machines that contain solvents.

The re-installation, or even the moving, of old drycleaning equipment may cause operations to be subject to stricter requirements under the Clean Air Act. Specifically, regulations promulgated under the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPs) program (40 CFR Part 63, Subpart M, §§ 320-326) apply.

### 2. If the drycleaning equipment is not discarded, but rather it is recycled as scrap metal:

As detailed in 40 CFR § 261.6(a)(3), recycled scrap metal is not subject to regulation as a hazardous waste providing that the old equipment, including the water/solvent separator tank, is completely emptied\* of all chlorinated solvent and chlorinated solvent -contaminated still bottoms, filters, lint, sludges, wastewaters, and all other solvent wastes. **Emptying should occur at the drycleaning facility where the equipment was last in use, prior to transport.** These steps should also be taken in order to comply with hazardous waste regulations:

- A. The chlorinated solvent removed from the equipment must be either reused, or managed and manifested for proper disposal as hazardous waste.
- B. The following chlorinated solvent-contaminated items must be removed, managed and manifested for proper disposal as hazardous waste: cartridge filters; filter media (e.g., carbon filters, granular activated carbon, and paper); residues from spin disks, lint traps, and button traps; still bottoms; and waste remaining in the separation unit.
- C. The generator must place and keep in the facility's file a notice stating that the old equipment is not being discarded, but rather is being recycled as scrap metal and, as such, is not subject to regulation as a solid or hazardous waste. This notice must record the disposition [ who (including the riggers, transporters, and scrap metal reclaimers involved), when, how, and where of transfer] of the old equipment and each of the wastes detailed in 2.A. and 2.B. above.

“Emptied” means that all wastes have been removed that can be removed using the practices commonly employed to remove materials from that type of container, e.g., pouring, pumping, and aspirating, such that no free liquid, vapor, or sludge remains.

Any regulated refrigerants (CFCs) should be evacuated and reclaimed by a certified technician under Section 608 of the Clean Air Act, 1990 and 40 CFR Part 83 Subpart F.

### **3. If the drycleaning equipment is discarded, either on-site or off-site:**

The equipment, the chlorinated solvent, the chlorinated solvent-contaminated waste, and the generator remain fully subject to hazardous waste regulations. In order for old chlorinated solvent-contaminated equipment to be lawfully discarded, all chlorinated solvents must be removed. **The removal or emptying of the chlorinated solvents should occur at the drycleaning facility where the equipment was last in use.** The equipment should be rinsed at least twice and the rinse water should be managed as hazardous waste.

### **Other considerations:**

A hazardous waste determination must also be made on any spot and stain removing chemicals and containers before disposal. This family of chemical products can include a large variety of chlorinated and other solvents. Any chemicals determined to be a hazardous waste, or any chemicals for which a determination cannot be made, must be managed and manifested for proper disposal as hazardous waste.

Please be aware that compliance with the above guidance is not intended to release and does not release generators or owners and operators of drycleaning facilities from potential liability for discharges, disposals, and releases under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or

“Superfund”) or state equivalents. Due diligence is necessary in the decisions (i.e.: choice of riggers, transporters, scrap metal recyclers, and disposal sites, proper documentation etc.) to avoid future problems related to solid or hazardous waste disposal regulations and liability for contamination.

The county or local agency may have stricter requirements regarding the proper disposal of old drycleaning equipment.

**Contacts for more information:**

DEP Hazardous Waste Regulation Staff	(850) 245-8707
DEP Drycleaning Solvent Cleanup Program Staff	(850) 245-8927
State Warning Point	(800) 320-0519
DEP Small Business Assistance Program (Air Hotline)	(800) 722-7457

DEP District Offices:

Central (Orlando)	(407) 894-7555
Northeast (Jacksonville)	(904) 807-3300
Northwest (Pensacola)	(850) 595-8300
South (Ft. Myers)	(239) 332-6975
Southeast (West Palm Beach)	(561) 681-6600
Southwest (Tampa)	(813) 632-7600