



South Coast Air Quality Management District

South Coast
AQMD

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NOTICE TO OWNER/OPERATOR OF PERCHLOROETHYLENE (PERC) DRY CLEANING EQUIPMENT December 18, 2020

Rule 1421 – *Control of Perchloroethylene Emissions from Dry Cleaning Systems* allows an owner or operator of a PERC dry cleaning system equipped with integral primary and secondary controls and operating pursuant to a current valid South Coast AQMD Permit to Operate to operate the system until December 31, 2020. **By January 1, 2021, all PERC dry cleaning systems within South Coast AQMD must be removed from service.**

South Coast AQMD is sensitive to the ongoing economic struggles facing dry-cleaners and other small businesses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Improving air quality and protecting public health are top priorities, but we are also committed to helping small businesses.

Online Permitting

Dry cleaning facilities needing to apply for a permit for new dry-cleaning equipment that utilizes a solvent other than PERC may now apply online. South Coast AQMD has introduced a new online permit application system for businesses. Eligible applicants can apply for and obtain, via email, a valid Permit to Operate. The online application filing program is currently available for dry cleaning machines and may be accessed at www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/permitting/online-permit-application-filing/faq--english-pdf.pdf?sfvrsn=5.

Operation of PERC Machine After December 31, 2020

To comply with the upcoming compliance deadline and avoid potential enforcement action, all operators should remove PERC dry cleaning systems from service this year. Removal from service means either physically removing the machine or disconnecting all utilities (i.e., electric and/or steam lines) to the machine **and** draining all PERC from the machine tanks. As a reminder, PERC dry cleaning systems are not allowed to operate within the jurisdictional boundaries of South Coast AQMD after December 31, 2020.

Facilities anticipating that they will be unable to procure an alternate, non-PERC dry-cleaning system by the January 1, 2021, deadline should immediately contact the South Coast AQMD Hearing Board at (909) 396-2500 about potential options for relief from rule requirements. The Hearing Board is an independent, quasi-judicial panel that is authorized *-under limited circumstances-* to allow a company to continue operating in violation of South Coast AQMD rules while the company takes appropriate steps to meet air quality requirements. Please visit the Hearing Board's webpage at www.aqmd.gov/nav/about/hearing-board to learn more, including a short video that explains what happens before the Hearing Board.