NORTH CAROLINA DRY-CLEANING SOLVENT CLEANUP ACT (DSCA) PROGRAM

Best Management Practices for Decommissioning Dry-Cleaning Facilities (March 2021)

When closing a plant or removing/replacing a machine, a dry-cleaning facility must be properly decommissioned, and the North Carolina Dry-Cleaning Solvent Cleanup Act's (DSCA) Compliance Unit must be properly notified. Until formally decommissioned, the facility will be considered an "active" plant, and the property owner and/or business owner is responsible for complying with all the applicable environmental regulations, including the required recordkeeping. Proper decommissioning requires removing all the cleaning and waste solvent from the dry-cleaning machine in an environmentally safe manner. The dry-cleaning machine must also be permanently disconnected from its power source. All dry-cleaning solvent and wastes generated by the decommissioning process must be removed by a licensed waste hauler, and the waste must be properly transported and received at a licensed Treatment Storage and Disposal (TSD) facility. You will be asked to submit documentation (i.e. return manifest) showing that your facility's generated waste has been properly transported, received, and disposed. Your facility will continue to receive environmental compliance inspections until such time as the dry-cleaning machine and/or facility has been properly decommissioned.

Note: At no time shall any dry-cleaning solvent, wastes containing dry-cleaning solvent, or water containing dry-cleaning solvent be discharged onto land or into waters of the State. This includes but is not limited to sanitary sewers, storm drains, floor drains, septic systems, boilers, and cooling-towers.

Recommended Steps for Facility Decommissioning

1. Notify the DSCA Compliance Unit at least 14 days prior to removal and decommissioning of the dry-cleaning machine(s). All communications should be directed to the inspector assigned to your county found in the yearly compliance calendar provided to active dry-cleaners and on the DSCA website at: https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Waste%20Management/DWM/SF/DSCA/Compliance/2021-DSCA-Compliance-Inspectors-Regional-Map.pdf. The DSCA Compliance Unit should be given an opportunity to assist with and witness the decommissioning process.

2. It is recommended that a company that is knowledgeable about dry-cleaning systems performs the decommissioning of the dry-cleaning machine. The process is labor intensive and requires knowledge of how to collect, handle, package and store hazardous materials.

3. Contact your waste hauler to supply you with several empty solvent waste drums and filter containers. You will need enough drums to contain the filters and all the solvent stored in your dry-cleaning machine(s). The extra containers need to be on site before beginning the decommissioning of the dry-cleaning machine.

4. If the decommissioning of your facility will change your Hazardous Waste Generator classification, contact the Division of Waste Management's (DWM) Hazardous Waste Section at 919-707-8200 to obtain an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ID# (additional fees may be applicable). An EPA ID# will be required if the decommissioning generates more than 220 lbs. of hazardous waste.

5. Confirm that you have adequate spill containment available on-site to properly store all solvent waste and filter drums.

6. Confirm that you have enough emergency spill clean-up materials on-site to adequately clean up all the solvent and waste remaining in the dry-cleaning machine.

7. Drain all solvent filters in their housings for a minimum of 24-hours prior to decommissioning the dry-cleaning machine.

8. Proper personal protective equipment (PPE) should be utilized during the decommissioning of dry-cleaning machines (gloves, eye protection, splash protection, respirator and explosive-meter). The **OSHA limit for perc is 100 parts per million (ppm) per 8-hour time-weighted average (TWA) and a ceiling of 200 ppm (for 5 mins. in any 3-hr. period), with a maximum peak of 300 ppm. Fire-hazardous and intrinsically safe equipment should be used while working closely with low-flashpoint hydrocarbon dry-cleaning solvents.** Any PPE that comes in contact with solvent, waste or water containing solvent should be containerized as hazardous waste.

9. Adequate ventilation should be available while decommissioning the dry-cleaning machine.

10. Spill containment should be used under all pumps and containers that are utilized for the removal of solvent from the dry-cleaning machine.

11. Remove solvent filters, all lint and debris from the dry-cleaning machine's button-trap and dispose of in a sealed solvent waste drum. Label drums with accumulation start date and store in spill containment until a waste hauler can pick up waste.

12. Dispose of all spotting agents and additives that are hazardous [containing trichloroethylene (TCE) and/or perchloroethylene (PCE)] with your solvent waste. These items may retain value and can be sold or donated to another business. Retain all documentation (receipt) of the transfer of all dry-cleaning chemicals.

13. Distill any remaining solvent in the still, if applicable. Drain/remove any solvent from pump, filter, button trap, separator, solvent tanks, still, and any other ancillary equipment that may contain solvent or water containing solvent.

14. Clean the still and place the muck into sealed solvent waste drums. Label drums with accumulation start date and store them in spill containment until a EPA-licensed waste hauler can pick up the waste.

15. Drain all separator water from the dry-cleaning-machine into a sealed container. Drum separator water with solvent waste or treat it on-site with an approved wastewater treatment unit (WWTU) that is equipped with carbon filtration and evaporation. Spill containment must be installed under and around all WWTUs.

16. Drum all contaminated WWTU filters along with solvent waste in sealed drums.

17. Remove all dry-cleaning solvent from the dry-cleaning machine utilizing the pump on the dry-cleaning machine, if applicable. If solvent is recovered, it must be placed in a drum, labelled and placarded before delivery to another store or disposal. **Removal and reintroduction of used solvent to another dry-cleaner can only be conducted with a closed-loop delivery system.** Any transport of solvent must be conducted by a licensed hauler. Retain documentation of the transfer of all dry-cleaning solvents indicating amount of solvent and the location and name of the store the solvent was removed from and the store where the solvent was delivered.

18. If access ports to the solvent tanks are available, open the tank and use a pump designed for the applicable solvent (do **not** use a shop vacuum) to remove the residual solvent from the tanks. If access ports are not available, ports should be installed. The removal of the tank sight glass may be a viable option.

19. Open and wipe down the solvent tanks after the solvent has been removed using rags or other absorbent material to recover any residual solvent (containerize these cleaning materials as hazardous waste). The system can also be flushed with a nonhazardous liquid to remove any solvent residue. This liquid should be disposed of as contaminated solvent waste. Clean and dry all metal surfaces of the equipment that have been in contact with solvent, waste or contact water.

20. All solvent waste should be removed by a licensed waste hauler, properly transported, and received at a licensed TSD facility. Retain and provide copies of returned hazardous waste shipping manifests to the DSCA Compliance Unit.

21. The dry-cleaning machine's electrical connection to the breaker box must be completely severed.

22. Decommissioned dry-cleaning machines should be removed from the facility whenever possible. Dry-cleaning machines shall not be transported while containing any solvent, solvent waste or wastewater. Fully decommissioned dry-cleaning machines can remain on the premises in storage. The removal of the dry-cleaning machine may become contingent upon acceptance into the DSCA Remediation Unit. Some dry-cleaning machines can be sold and reused in different locations; **however, only compliant 4th generation perc machines and petroleum dry-cleaning machines are allowed to be relocated/reinstalled in NC**. Dry-cleaning machines that are not in compliance with current environmental regulations may be used for parts or sold as scrap metal.

23. Documentation of the removal of the dry-cleaning machine (Bill of Sale or invoice) should be retained and be available to the DSCA Compliance Unit.