



California Air Resources Board  
**Dry Cleaning Notice 2009-1**



October 2009

## **Advisory to Owners and Operators of Perchloroethylene (Perc) Dry Cleaning Facilities**

The purpose of this advisory is to inform owners and operators of Perchloroethylene (Perc) dry cleaning facilities of the upcoming requirements under the Airborne Toxic Control Measure for Emissions of Perc from Dry Cleaning Operations (Dry Cleaning ATCM) which became law December 2007.

The Dry Cleaning ATCM is a statewide regulation which applies to all Perc dry cleaning facilities. The Dry Cleaning ATCM is implemented and enforced by the local air districts. The districts may, however, adopt their own regulations which are to be equivalent or more stringent than the statewide Dry Cleaning ATCM. Please contact your local air district for any rulemaking information. A list of the local air districts' contact information can be found at the following website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/capcoa/roster.htm>.

### **What must I do to comply with the Dry Cleaning ATCM?**

As its first major regulatory compliance date, the Dry Cleaning ATCM requires all existing Perc dry cleaning machines at co-residential facilities and all Perc dry cleaning machines 15 years or older to be removed from service by **July 1, 2010**.

Listed below are the major requirements of the approved Dry Cleaning ATCM:

- Prohibits the sale or lease of new Perc dry cleaning machines beginning on **January 1, 2008**;
- Eliminates the use of existing Perc machines at co-residential facilities (facilities that share a wall with, or are located in the same building, as a residence) by **July 1, 2010**;
- Requires that all converted Perc machines and Perc machines that are 15 years or older be removed from service by **July 1, 2010**;
- If the age of the machine cannot be obtained, the machine must be removed from service by **July 1, 2010**;
- Requires that all other Perc machines be removed from service once they become **15 years old** or by **January 1, 2023**, whichever is sooner;
- Expands good operating practices and recordkeeping and reporting requirements for Perc dry cleaners; and
- Requires Perc manufacturers and distributors to report and keep records of their Perc sales to California dry cleaners.

The regulation requirements can be found at the following website:  
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/dryclean/dryclean.htm>.

### **Are there financial assistance programs available for those who purchase an alternative dry cleaning machine<sup>1</sup>?**

There are incentive programs available to assist you in replacing your Perc machines with alternative dry cleaning technologies. The statewide Non-Toxic Dry Cleaning Incentive Program (Assembly Bill 998) provides a \$10,000 grant to California dry cleaners who replace their existing Perc dry cleaning systems with non-toxic and non-smog forming systems such as water-based and carbon dioxide cleaning technologies. We would encourage you to apply for these grants. Assembly Bill 998 also offers a demonstration program which provides funding to those facilities that choose to participate in the demonstration of these technologies. For more information on the program, please visit the Non-Toxic Dry Cleaning Incentive Program website at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/dryclean/ab998.htm>. When considering a non-toxic and non-smog forming technology, we also recommend contacting your local air district for potential financial incentives that they may offer in addition to the State grant.

<sup>1</sup>This Notice includes a compilation of some financial assistance programs that are available for dry cleaners and does not represent endorsement by the ARB. Dry cleaners need to consider whether any one of the programs is suitable for their businesses.

There are also several financial assistance programs provided to small businesses through federal and state loan programs. Assistance can come in the form of low interest or guaranteed loans or by helping small businesses in financial planning. Provided below is a brief description of the available programs and contact information:

- The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is part of the United States Department of Commerce. MBDA provides assistance to socially or economically disadvantaged groups who own or wish to start or expand their own businesses. More information on the services offered by MBDA can be found at <http://www.mbda.gov>;
- The United States Small Business Administration (SBA) offers a variety of financing options for small businesses. Their assistance usually is in the form of loan guaranties made by banks and other private lenders to small business clients. More information can be found at <http://www.sba.gov/ca>;
- The California Small Business Loan Guarantee Program allows a business to obtain a loan and help in establishing a favorable credit history with a lender. More information on the Small Business Loan Guarantee Program can be found at <http://www.calbusiness.ca.gov/cedpgybfasblgp.asp>; and,
- The California Capital Access Program helps small businesses obtain financing by encouraging banks and other financial institutions to make loans to small businesses. More information on this program can be found at <http://www.treasurer.ca.gov/cpcfca/calcap.asp>.

**Who can I contact for more information?**

For more information on the Dry Cleaning ATCM requirements, please contact Mei Fong at 916.324.2570 (e-mail: [sfong@arb.ca.gov](mailto:sfong@arb.ca.gov)), Sonia Villalobos at 916.327.5983 (e-mail: [svillalo@arb.ca.gov](mailto:svillalo@arb.ca.gov)), Hafizur Chowdhury at 916.322.2275 (e-mail: [hchowdhu@arb.ca.gov](mailto:hchowdhu@arb.ca.gov)), or visit our dry cleaning website at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/dryclean/dryclean.htm>. Please contact your local air district for the enforcement of the Dry Cleaning ATCM. If you need this document in an alternate format or language, please contact one of the ARB staff listed above. TTY/TDD/Speech to Speech users may dial 711 for the California Relay Service.