



Prevention

Facility Requirements to Minimize Spills

RR-636

DRY CLEANER ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE FUND PROGRAM

AUGUST 2014

The Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Fund (DERF) Program was established to help dry cleaners pay the cost of investigating and cleaning up contamination caused by the release of dry cleaning solvents. Many of the releases discovered at dry cleaning facilities are not new releases, but historical releases. These releases could have originated from the storage of filters, machine to machine transfer of saturated clothing, and spills from solvent deliveries. Today, we have learned much about the hazards of the chemicals used in the dry cleaning processes; modern equipment and safer handling practices have resulted in fewer releases to the environment and fewer exposures to workers.

In order to ensure that we continue to reduce discharges at dry cleaning facilities, several important pollution prevention requirements were included in the DERF statute, sec. 292.65, Wis. Stats. and incorporated into the DERF rule, ch. NR 169, Wis. Adm. Code. This fact sheet summarizes the pollution prevention requirements of the DERF program.

All Facility Requirements: All facilities seeking reimbursement for cleanup costs must comply with the following requirements.

- * **Delivery of solvents:** The safest technology for solvent delivery at this time is through a closed, direct-coupled system where there are minimal opportunities for releases of the chemical to the environment during the delivery process. An active dry cleaner applying for reimbursement of response action costs must certify at the time they submit their application that they employ a closed, direct-coupled delivery system for perchloroethylene used at their facility.
- * **Waste management:** Document to the department that all wastes generated at the dry cleaning facility that contain dry cleaning solvent are managed in compliance with ch. 291, Stats., and 42 USC 6901 to 6991i.
- * **Solvent discharges:** Cease discharges of dry cleaning solvent or wastewater from dry cleaning machines into any sanitary sewer, storm sewers, septic tank or into the waters of this state.
- * **Second Cleanups and Facilities constructed after to October 14, 1997**
Dry cleaner facilities constructed on or before October 14, 1997 which have a new release 91 days or later from receiving a case closure from the DNR for a past cleanup and new



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facilities (those constructed after October 14, 1997) are both required to implement a number of pollution prevention measures to ensure that future releases are minimized. The pollution prevention requirements include:

- surrounding each machine or other piece of equipment in which dry cleaning solvent is used, or the entire area in which those machines or pieces of equipment are located, by a containment dike or other containment structure that is able to contain any leak, spill or other release of dry cleaning solvent from the machines or other pieces of equipment; and
- sealing or otherwise rendering the floor within any area surrounded by a dike or other containment structure impervious to dry cleaning solvent (dry cleaning machines with impervious containment pans designed to hold the amount of solvents contained in the largest tank on the machine meet this requirement).

For more information on the Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Fund Program, including a copy of ch. NR 169 visit us at our Website at dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/Dryclean.html or dnr.wi.gov/Aid/DERF.html.

This document contains information about certain state statutes and administrative rules but does not necessarily include all of the details found in the statutes and rules. Readers should consult the actual language of the statutes and rules to answer specific questions. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. This publication is available in alternative format upon request. Please call 608-267-3543 for more information.