Cold Solvent Parts Cleaners

The use of cold solvents (such as Mineral Spirits, Petroleum Distillates, Stoddard Solvent, etc), in Parts Cleaners is common practice for the washing, degreasing, surface cleaning of metal parts. Proper operation of these Cold-Solvent Parts Cleaners is important to protect New Jersey’s air quality, and to reduce public and worker exposure to potentially harmful solvent emissions.

Your Cold-Solvent Parts Cleaner may require an Air Permit, may be subject to Operating Rules, or both.

AIR PERMITS
Some open-top Cold-Solvent Parts Cleaners require a permit. Parts Cleaners are open-top even if they have a tightly-fitting cover. If you put parts in (or take parts out of) a top opening, then you have an open-top Parts Cleaner. This can include both sink-on-a-drum styles, or immersion-styles (see below pictures of examples of Cold-Solvent Parts Cleaners).

If your Open-Top Parts Cleaner uses a cold solvent* (such as mineral spirits, etc) you must get an air permit if either of the following applies:

A) The open-top measures more than 6 square feet

-OR-

B) The solvent capacity is more than 100 gallons

* A solvent containing more than 5% Volatile Organic Compounds

* NJAC 7:27-8.2(c)4

If you require a permit, General Permit Requirements for Non-HAP VOC Solvent Degreasing Operations (GP-010) is available, costs $350 online, and will list the rules you must follow.

OPERATING RULES
Only if your Cold-Solvent Parts Cleaner stores 2 gallons or more of solvent, then you must follow the operating rules listed below:

- Solvent used must have a vapor pressure less than 1 mm Hg at 20 C/68 F (check your solvent manufacturer’s MSDS sheet).

- Parts cleaner must be equipped with a tightly-fitting cover:
  - Immersion parts cleaner: the cover must always be closed, except when adding (or removing) parts or solvent.
  - Sink-on-a-drum parts cleaner: Cover must always be closed when not in use, except if equipped with a drain that allows solvent to go directly to sealed storage, and that drain is kept clear with no liquid solvent present in the sink.

- Attach NJDEP operating rules near the parts cleaner, and follow these rules at all times.

- Keep records of your solvent purchases (invoices) and solvent MSDS on-site for 2 years.
- For Immersion Parts Cleaners only, you need a Freeboard Ratio of 0.75 or more.
  
  Freeboard Ratio = height measured from the top of the solvent-surface up to the top of the machine
  (divided by) width of the tank (the tank’s narrower dimension)

- For Immersion Parts Cleaners only, you need a liquid fill-line mark, and a high-level liquid mark.

Note: Heated-Solvent Parts Cleaners & Vapor Degreasers are subject to different rules, please call for assistance.

Who should I contact with questions?
You may call the regional air enforcement field office that corresponds to your geographical area:

Northern Regional Office - (973) 656- 4444
(Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Warren, and Union)

Central Regional Office - (609) 292- 3187
(Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean)

Southern Regional Office - (856) 614- 3601
(Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem)

Where can I get more information?

Visit the following Web sites for additional information regarding this advisory:

A copy of NJAC 7:27-8.2(c)4, Air Permit Applicability of Surface Cleaners can be found at:
http://www.state.nj.us/dep/aqm/Sub8.pdf  (Specifically see NJAC 7:27-8.2(c)4 on page 19.)

A copy of NJAC 7:27- 16 Solvent Cleaning Operation Regulations can be found at:
http://www.state.nj.us/dep/aqm/Sub16.pdf  (Specifically see NJAC 7:27-16.6(j) starting on page 64.)

NJDEP Air Quality Permitting Program - General Permit Website:
http://www.nj.gov/dep/aqpp/gp.html

Small Business Assistance Program (must be <100 employees) Website:
http://www.nj.gov/dep/opppc/small.html

Visit the following Web site for general information:

Contact NJDEP:  http://www.nj.gov/cgi-bin/dep/contactdep.pl

To comment on this advisory:

http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/survey.html

Please note this advisory is intended to be a summary explanation of a department initiative. It does not include all potentially applicable requirements. If you have any questions related to compliance with this initiative, please contact the Enforcement number listed above.