


CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER		POLICY	DENVER FIRE DEPARTMENT
Subject:	DRY CLEANING OPERATIONS		
Reference:	2015 IFC Chapter 12; 2016 Denver Fire Code Amendments; 2015 NFPA		
Approved:			Manuel Almaguer Division Chief, Fire Prevention Division
Number:	2015 IFC-2101-2108 NFPA 32	Effective Date: February 26, 2017	Page 1 of 6

This policy is meant to provide basic information for the most common conditions and situations. In any given occupancy, many other Fire Code requirements may be enforced. The Fire Inspector will address these during a premise inspection. Questions can be addressed by contacting the Fire Prevention Division between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at 720-913-3474. Walk-in hours are 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. ONLY, Monday-Friday at 745 W. Colfax Avenue.

## I. SCOPE

This policy covers the permitting requirements as they pertain to: **DRY CLEANING OPERATIONS** within the City and County of Denver.

## II. DEFINITIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

- A. CLASSIFICATION OF DRY CLEANING PLANTS AND SYSTEMS.** Dry cleaning plants and systems shall be classified based on the solvents used as follows:
1. Type I – systems using Class I solvents
  2. Type II – systems using Class II solvents
  3. Type III-A – systems using Class III-A solvents
  4. Type III-B – systems using Class III-B solvents
  5. Type IV – systems using Class IV solvents in which dry cleaning is not conducted by the public
  6. Type V – systems using Class IV solvents in which dry cleaning is conducted by the public
- B. DRY CLEANING.** The process of removing dirt, grease, paints, and other stains from such items as wearing apparel, textiles, fabrics, and rugs by use of nonaqueous liquids (solvents).
- C. DRY CLEANING PLANT.** A facility in which dry cleaning and associated operations are conducted, including the office, receiving area, and storage rooms.
- D. DRY CLEANING ROOM.** An occupied space within a building used for performing dry cleaning operations, the installation of solvent-handling equipment, or the storage of dry cleaning solvents.
- E. DRY CLEANING SYSTEM.** Machinery or equipment in which textiles are immersed or agitated in solvent or in which dry cleaning solvent is extracted from textiles.

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**F. SOLVENT OR LIQUID CLASSIFICATIONS.** A method for classifying solvents or liquids according to the following classes:

1. **Class I solvents.** Liquids having a flash point below 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius).
2. **Class II solvents.** Liquids having a flash point at or above 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) and below 140 degrees Fahrenheit (60 degrees Celsius).
3. **Class IIIA solvents.** Liquids having a flash point at or above 140 degrees Fahrenheit (60 degrees Celsius) and below 200 degrees Fahrenheit (93 degrees Celsius).
4. **Class IIIB solvents.** Liquids having a flash point at or above 200 degrees Fahrenheit (93 degrees Celsius).
5. **Class IV solvents.** Liquids classified as nonflammable. PERC (tetrachloroethylene) is a Class IV solvent.

### III. ANNUAL PERMITS and FEES

The following permit must be obtained from the FPD Flammables Section:

- A. **DRY CLEANERS, IFC Section 105.6.13** - \$75.00 fee for annual permit.
- B. The owner or responsible party must complete the **Dry Cleaners** application form (attached), along with the required fee. Make check payable to the **Denver Manager of Finance**. Submit to the Denver Fire Department, FPD Flammables Section. All required permits shall be current and posted on site.

**Mail to:** Denver Fire Prevention/Permits  
745 W. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80204

**Walk-in** permits: 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. **ONLY**, Monday – Friday at 745 W. Colfax Avenue.

### IV. TO OBTAIN PERMITS

A permit shall be obtained from the Denver Fire Department, FPD Flammables Section. To obtain a permit, the following information must be provided:

- A. Business name, address, phone number and fax number.
- B. Contact name, phone number, and fax number.
- C. Site address.
- D. **Diagram of site location indicating dry cleaning area, room, or booth.**
- E. Information regarding presence of automatic fire sprinkler system and/or electronic fire alarm and detection system in the building.

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F. **MSDS** (materials safety data sheets) of all solvent(s) used on the site.

### **SPECIFICS AND CONDITIONS**

- A. IFC 2104.1 Prohibited Use.** Type I dry cleaning plants shall be prohibited. Limited quantities of Class I solvents stored and used in accordance with this Section and Section 1206.2 shall not be prohibited in dry cleaning plants.
- B. IFC 2104.2 Building Services.** Building services and systems shall be designed, installed, and maintained in accordance with this Section and Chapter 6.
- C. IFC 2104.2.1 Ventilation.** Ventilation shall be provided in accordance with Section 502 of the *International Mechanical Code* and DOL 29 CFR Part 1910.1000, where applicable. Mechanical ventilation is needed in the cleaning room to carry fumes safely outdoors. The exhaust system requires an exhaust capacity of one cubic foot per minute (cfm) for every square foot of floor area. (See Mechanical Code Chapters 4 and 5). The system serves no other areas in the plant. (See Mechanical Code Section 510.4). Ventilation system shall be in accordance with NFPA 90A, *Air Conditioning and Ventilation Systems*, and NFPA 91, *Exhaust Systems for Air Conveying of Vapors, Gases, Mists, and Non-combustible Particulate Solids* (See Section 1205.2.3).
- D. IFC 2104.2.2 Heating.** In Type II dry cleaning plants, heating shall be by indirect means using steam, hot water, or hot oil only. Steam and hot water pipes, radiators, or convectors used for heating or drying purposes shall provide at least one-inch clearance from all wood and shall be protected by metal screens arranged to prevent combustible materials from being in contact with such pipes, radiators, or convectors (See Mechanical Code).
- E. IFC 2104.2.3 Electrical Wiring and Equipment.** Electrical wiring and equipment in dry cleaning rooms or other locations subject to flammable vapors shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code*.
- F. IFC 2104.2.4 Bonding and Grounding.** Storage tanks, treatment tanks, filters, pumps, piping, ducts, dry cleaning units, stills, tumblers, drying cabinets, and other such equipment, where not inherently electrically conductive, shall be bonded together and grounded. Isolated equipment shall be grounded.
- G. IFC 2105.1.1 Written instructions.** Written instructions covering the proper installation and safe operation and use of equipment and solvent shall be given to the buyer.
- H. IFC 1205.1.2 Equipment identification.** The manufacturer shall provide nameplates on dry cleaning machines indicating the class of solvent for which each machine is designed.

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- I. **IFC 2105.1.3 Open systems prohibited.** Dry cleaning by immersion and agitation in open vessels shall be prohibited.
- J. **IFC 2105.1.4 Prohibited use of solvent.** The use of solvents with a flash point below that for which a machine is designed or listed shall be prohibited.
- K. **IFC 2105.1.5 Equipment maintenance and housekeeping.** Proper maintenance and operating practices shall be observed to prevent the leakage of solvent or the accumulation of lint. The handling of waste material generated by dry cleaning operations and the maintenance of facilities shall comply with the provisions of this section.
- L. **IFC 2105.1.5.1 Floors.** Class I and II liquids shall not be used for cleaning floors.
- M. **IFC 2105.1.5.2 Filters.** Filter residue and other residues containing solvent shall be handled and disposed of in covered metal containers.
- N. **IFC 2105.1.5.3 Lint.** Lint and refuse shall be removed from traps daily, deposited in approved waste cans, removed from the premises, and disposed of safely. At all other times, traps shall be held securely in place.
- O. **IFC 2105.1.5.4 Customer areas.** In Type V dry cleaning systems, customer areas shall be kept clean.
- P. **IFC 2105.2.3 Ventilation.** A mechanical ventilation system which is designed to exhaust 1 cubic foot of air per minute for each square foot of floor area shall be installed and in drying rooms. The ventilation system shall operate automatically when the dry-cleaning equipment is in operation and shall have manual controls at an approved location.
- Q. **IFC 2106.2.1 Spotting and pre-treating.** Spotting and pre-treating operations and equipment shall comply with the provisions of 2015 International Fire Code Section 1206.
- R. **IFC 2107 Dry cleaning systems.** Dry cleaning systems including dry cleaning units, washing mechanism, stills, drying cabinets, tumblers, and their appurtenances, including pumps, piping, valves, filters, and solvent coolers, shall be installed and maintained in accordance with NFPA 32. The construction of buildings in which such systems are located shall comply with the requirements of Chapter 21 of the International Fire Code and this policy.
- S. **IFC 1208 Fire protection.** Fire protection systems, devices and equipment shall be installed, inspected, tested, and maintained in accordance with this policy and applicable chapters of the International Fire Code.

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**T. IFC 2108.4 Portable fire extinguishers.** Portable fire extinguishers shall be selected, installed, and maintained in accordance with this section and Section 906. A minimum of two 2-A:10-B:C portable fire extinguishers shall be provided near the doors inside dry cleaning rooms containing Type II, Type III-A and Type III-B dry cleaning systems.

**U. IFC 5003.5 Hazard identification signs.** Unless otherwise exempted by the fire code official, visible hazard identification signs as specified in NFPA 704 for the specific material contained shall be placed at entrances to locations where hazardous materials are stored, dispensed, used or handled in quantities requiring a permit and at specific entrances and locations designated by the fire code official.

## **V. SITE INSPECTION**

Upon approval of a Dry-Cleaning Operations permit, a Denver Fire Department FPD Inspector will conduct a field inspection of the site. If any violations of the above Sections exist, the permit may be revoked. Compliance with **all** Fire Code requirements shall be maintained always. Permit shall be kept on site always. Permit is valid for business/property owner, the dates issued and for which it is approved, and site indicated on the permit. The transfer of permits to other sites and/or businesses is prohibited.

## **VI. A PERMIT WILL BE REVOKED WHEN:**

- A.** The permit is used for a location or establishment other than that for which it was issued.
- B.** The permit is used for a condition or activity other than that listed in the permit.
- C.** Conditions and limitations set forth in the permit have been violated.
- D.** There have been any false statements or misrepresentations as to the material fact in the application for permit or plans submitted or a condition of the permit.
- E.** The permit is used by a different person or firm than the name for which it was issued.
- F.** The permittee failed, refused, or neglected to comply with orders or notices duly served in accordance with the provisions of this code within the time provided therein.
- G.** The permit was issued in error or in violation of an ordinance or regulations of this code.

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## DRY CLEANING OPERATIONS APPLICATION FORM

**THIS FORM SHALL BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SITE APPLYING FOR DRY CLEANING OPERATIONS PERMIT. A PERMIT WILL NOT BE ISSUED IF THIS FORM IS INCOMPLETE.**

BUSINESS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT'S PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

SITE ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

- PROVIDE COPIES OF MATERIALS SAFETY DATA SHEETS FOR ALL SOLVENTS USED ON THE SITE.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE DENVER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY ON DRY CLEANING OPERATIONS. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE DENVER FPD WILL CONDUCT A SITE INSPECTION, AND IF I DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE, WITH DENVER AMENDMENTS, AND WITH NFPA STANDARDS, MY PERMIT(S) MAY BE REVOKED WITHOUT A REFUND.

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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