
Maryland Port Administration

Best Management Practice (BMP)

Title: Washing of Used Cargo: High and Heavy Equipment & Used Vehicles
Date: June 4, 2021

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Best Management Practice (BMP) is to provide guidelines for contractors who wash used cargo (high and heavy equipment and vehicles) at the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MPA) to eliminate the discharge of pollutants in wastewater generated by these activities. The following information is not intended to include all regulatory requirements and obligations. The responsibility for complying with all regulations remains the responsibility of the contractors performing the work.

II. Scope

This procedure applies only to washing of used heavy equipment (e.g., tractors, backhoes, excavators and loaders) and used vehicles being imported and exported through MPA terminals.

This procedure applies to equipment which:

- was previously used and contains visible quantities of dirt, mud, grease, oil or any other organics or petroleum product(s);
- was new or previously used and is coated with anti-corrosion, anti-rust, de-icing or any other chemical agent(s);
- was coated with salt residue;
- was previously used and has been imported from an overseas location for use in the United States;
- was new or previously used and is being exported to Australia or New Zealand;
- requires steam cleaning;
- requires the use of soaps, detergents or any other chemical additive(s) for washing procedures;
- requires washing of the undercarriage; and/or
- requires washing of the engine.

III. Procedures

The following procedures shall be employed when washing used high and heavy equipment and used vehicles:

1. Used high and heavy equipment and used vehicle washing shall be conducted only in

locations that are pre-approved by the MPA and a significant distance from a storm drain.

2. City water may be used as a source of wash water.
 - A. City water may be obtained from an offsite source and transported onsite in contractor-owned holding tanks.
 - B. Contractor-owned holding tanks may be filled using designated metered hydrants or vessel water points located on MPA property with prior MPA Authorization.
 1. The MPA Facility Maintenance Office must be contacted at least two business days in advance of the day when use of a hydrant or water pit is needed. The MPA Facility Maintenance Office may be contacted at (410) 633-1113.
 2. No contractor is authorized to connect to any water source located on MPA property without prior MPA authorization.
 3. Water use from hydrants will be metered by MPA. Costs for use of city water from an MPA source will include:
 - hourly charge for MPA assistance to access to the water source and metering for a minimum of two hours; and
 - cost of water.

3. The contractor must maintain a record of water used and water collected. The records must be maintained and available on the site.

4. Soaps and detergents, preferably biodegradable and phosphate-free, may be used when washing used high and heavy equipment and used vehicles.

A. Cleaning products including chlorine bleach, as directed by Customs and Border Protection, may also be used.

5. A portable containment unit is required during washing of used equipment and used vehicles.

A. The unit shall be constructed of hardwearing, oil-resistant, chemical-resistant material such as polyurethane or similar material capable of supporting high and heavy equipment traffic without tearing.

B. The unit sidewalls shall be supported with a frame or supports to prevent collapse during use.

C. When the containment unit is not in use, it must be protected from a rain event. This may be accomplished by covering the unit, removing it from the area, or folding the containment unit so that it is not exposed.

6. A sump pump shall be used to collect wash water during washing procedures.

7. Holding tank(s) shall be used to collect wash water for transport and proper offsite disposal.

8. Container(s) (e.g., drum, pail) equipped with a lid(s) shall be used to collect residual mud and dirt generated through washing activities for transport and proper offsite disposal.

Cleaning (Washing Procedures):

1. The containment unit shall be set up in the wash location.

2. The wash location shall be clean and free of visible debris, dirt, grease, oil, or any other petroleum product(s) prior to washing.

3. Washing of used high and heavy equipment and used vehicles shall be conducted **within the containment unit.**

A. Any dry cleaning of equipment conducted prior to washing shall be carried out within the containment unit.

4. Steam cleaning may be used for used high and heavy equipment washing.

5. Soaps and detergents may be used when washing used high and heavy equipment and vehicles.

6. The sump pump shall be used continuously throughout the duration of the washing to pump wash water into the holding tank.

A. Any wash water remaining in the containment unit following use of the sump pump shall be absorbed using absorbent pads and disposed of properly.

B. Any dirt, residue remaining in containment shall be collected and disposed of properly.

7. The contractor is responsible for transporting wash water offsite and for properly managing wash water for disposal.

8. Any solid waste generated through washing shall be collected in a container equipped with a lid and disposed of offsite.

A. No solid waste is permitted to be disposed of in MPA waste receptacles.

B. Solid wastes shall be managed and disposed of off MPA property according to hazard class (hazardous or non-hazardous).

C. The waste may need to be tested as described in COMAR 26.13 to determine if it

is a hazardous waste. If the waste is hazardous it must be managed and disposed of in accordance with COMAR 26.13. All disposal records must be maintained and available for review onsite.

IV. Employee Education

1. All contractors conducting washing of used equipment and vehicles procedures at MPA shall provide their personnel with knowledge of:

- BMP implementation at MPA;
- good housekeeping procedures;
- hazards associated with the equipment and materials being used;
- site layout and storm drain locations; and
- awareness of vendor's spill response procedures.

2. All incidents or emergencies should be immediately reported to MDTA Police at 410-537-7911. This information should be conveyed to employees and contractors.