
Maryland Port Administration

Best Management Practice (BMP)

Title: Washing Refrigeration Units and Reefers
Date: June 11, 2021

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Best Management Practice (BMP) is to provide guidelines for contractors washing refrigeration units 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 refrigeration units used in reefers (refrigerated containers) that transport temperature sensitive cargo to and from the MPA terminals.

III. Procedures

The following procedures shall be employed when washing refrigeration units used in reefers:

1. Reefer 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. A portable containment unit is required during cleaning of refrigeration units.
 - 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 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 offsite disposal.

Washing and Disposal:

1. Washing of refrigeration units shall be conducted within the containment unit.
2. Steam cleaning may be used for washing of refrigeration units.
3. Soaps and detergents may be used when washing equipment.
4. A sump pump shall be used continuously throughout the duration of washing to pump wash water into the holding tank.
5. Any waste wash water remaining in the containment unit following use of the sump pump, shall be absorbed using absorbent pads.
6. The contractor is responsible for cleaning, maintaining and transporting the portable containment unit.
7. The contractor is responsible for transporting waste 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 hazard class (hazardous or nonhazardous).
- 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 heavy equipment 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 sewer 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.