
Maryland Port Administration

Best Management Practice (BMP)

-Rinsing of Cargo: New Automobiles & New High and Heavy Equipment (“New Vehicles”)

April 2024

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Best Management Practice (BMP) is to provide a consistent method to contractors who rinse new vehicles at the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MPA) terminals 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 to rinsing of new vehicles at any MPA terminal. This procedure provides the guidelines for rinsing new vehicles with clean, unheated (cool enough to touch prior to reaching state waters), dechlorinated water with no soaps, detergents, or other chemical additives.

This procedure does not allow for:

- washing of the undercarriage;
- washing of the engine; or
- degreasing.

In accordance with the Maryland Department of the Environment’s (MDE) requirements for storm water associated with industrial activities, only unheated, dechlorinated water used to rinse new vehicles may be discharged to storm water inlets located on MPA property.

III. Procedures

The following procedures shall be employed when rinsing new vehicles:

1. New automobile rinsing shall be conducted on clean (meaning free of debris and oils) surfaces that are concrete or asphalt.
2. City water may be used as a source of rinse water but must be dechlorinated prior to use.
 - A. Dechlorination may be accomplished by use of dechlorination powder or tablets. Dechlorination powder and tablets shall be used in accordance

with the instructions provided by the product manufacturer.

- B. Chlorine concentrations in rinse water must be non-detectable prior to discharge to the storm drains.

3. Unheated water (cool enough to touch prior to reaching state waters) shall be used in rinsing activities.

- A. Only unheated and dechlorinated water may be discharged to the storm drain.

4. City water may be obtained from an offsite source and transported onsite or may be filled using designated metered hydrants located on MPA property or via vessel water point.

- A. No contractor is authorized to connect to any water source located on MPA property without 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. 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.

5. Only the exterior of new vehicles shall be rinsed.

- A. Rinsing of the engine or undercarriage is not permitted during implementation of this SOP.

- B. No soaps, detergents or any other chemical additive(s) shall be used during rinsing of new vehicles.

IV. Employee Education

1. All tenants and contractors conducting rinsing of new vehicles 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;
- MPA site layout and storm water inlet locations; and
- awareness of 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.