FIU Operations and Safety
Environmental Health & Safety

# EPA Final Methylene Chloride Rule: Facilities Guide

**Introduction**

In April 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final rule regulating methylene chloride (CAS# 75-09-2, also identified as dichloromethane or DCM) under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Methylene chloride is commonly found in adhesives, strippers, degreasing agents, metal cleaners, and lubricants. Campus facilities operations and other chemical users that use this material will be impacted.

**Impact**

The new EPA rule effectively bans most commercial and industrial uses of products containing methylene chloride. **(Solvent welding is allowed by the EPA rule if a Workplace Chemical Protection Program is established. This process must be reviewed and approved by EH&S)**. This rule applies to all products and mixtures containing 0.1% or more methylene chloride. All non-laboratory units currently using products which contain methylene chloride must discontinue its use and find appropriate substitutes moving forward.

As a part of this rule, laboratory work involving this material will be allowed with certain restrictions. Any person who will be entering labs (e.g. custodial staff, maintenance workers, etc.) where methylene chloride will be used must also comply with new regulatory requirements identified by **FIU EH&S**.

**Unit Required Action**

Units with this material must:

1. Check chemical inventories for products containing more than 0.1% methylene chloride. On older products, you may need to look at the Safety Data Sheet to determine if the list of active ingredients includes methylene chloride.
2. Due to the ban on most uses, submit any existing materials for hazardous waste pickup.
3. Ensure procurement practices are in place so that no additional products containing methylene chloride are obtained.

Units that conduct work in laboratories must:

1. Follow any procedures and training requirements identified by **FIU EH&S** when entering laboratory areas that will continue to use methylene chloride.

**Campus Timeline**

| Action | Date |
|---|---|
| Complete inventory check. | **April 11, 2025** |
| Submit materials for waste. | **April 18, 2025** |
| Establish procurement procedures to prevent future acquisition. | **October 30, 2025** |
| Complete laboratory access training if applicable. | **October 30, 2025** |

*Content developed by CSHEMA*

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