



USEPA Announces Ban on TCE and PCE

Client Advisories

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On December 9, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) announced bans on two chemicals—trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE)—pursuant to the latest risk management rules under the bipartisan 2016 Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) amendments. A link to USEPA's announcement of the ban can be found [here](#). TCE and PCE are two of the initial chemicals USEPA evaluated under the 2016 TSCA amendments, along with asbestos and methylene chloride.

Under the new rules, all uses of TCE will be banned over time, and most uses will be prohibited within one year. A limited number of uses in the workplace, mainly in highly industrialized settings, will be phased out over a longer period, but those uses will only continue with strict worker protections in place.

As for PCE, the new rules ban the manufacture, processing and distribution in commerce of PCE for all consumer uses and many commercial and industrial uses, most of which are to be phased out in less than three years. The rules allow some workplace uses of PCE—such as cleaning aircraft and medical devices, and manufacturing battery separators and refrigerants—to continue only where robust workplace controls can be implemented, including an inhalation exposure limit. USEPA is finalizing a 10-year phaseout for the use of PCE in dry cleaning specifically.

TCE and PCE are both nonflammable chlorinated solvents used in a variety of consumer products and for a number of commercial and industrial purposes. According to USEPA, safer alternatives are readily available for the majority of TCE and PCE uses.

Specifically, TCE is used as a solvent in consumer and commercial products such as cleaning and furniture care products, degreasers, brake cleaners, sealants, lubricants, adhesives, paints and coatings, arts and crafts spray coatings, and is also used in the manufacture of some refrigerants.

PCE is a solvent that is widely used for consumer uses such as brake cleaners and adhesives, in commercial applications such as dry cleaning, and in many industrial settings.

USEPA plans to release compliance guidance for the use of PCE in dry cleaning and energized electrical cleaning, as well as for the use of TCE, in the coming months.

For questions or issues concerning USEPA's ban on TCE and PCE, please contact **Debra Rosen** at drosen@archerlaw.com or 856-354-3084, **Charles Dennen** at cdennen@archerlaw.com or 856-673-3932, or **Grace Baccare** at gbaccare@archerlaw.com or 856-673-3902.

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