

# Ordinance No. 1138

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, 1953, AS AMENDED, BY ADDING A NEW CHAPTER THERETO NUMBERED CHAPTER 15B, WHICH NEW CHAPTER RELATES TO PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE BY ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR THE BUSINESS OF COIN-OPERATED DRY CLEANING MACHINES, REQUIRING INSURANCE AND A PERMIT BY THE PERSON OPERATING AND IN CONTROL OF SAID MACHINES, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.**

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1953, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding a new chapter thereto numbered Chapter 15B to read as follows:

## **CHAPTER 15B**

### **COIN-OPERATED DRY CLEANING MACHINES**

#### **Article I Title and Definitions**

##### **Section 15B-1 SHORT TITLE**

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Coin-Operated Dry Cleaning Machines Law of the City of Alexandria, Virginia."

##### **Section 15B-2 DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this chapter the following phrases and words shall have the meaning assigned below, except in those instances where the context clearly indicates a different meaning.

**Director:** The Director of Public Health of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, or his authorized representative.

**Person:** Any person, individual, firm, corporation, association or partnership.

**Coin-Operated Dry Cleaning:** Shall mean the cleaning of textiles, fabrics, garments or other articles by the use of any solvent other than water in a dry cleaning unit designed to be used or used by the general public. For the purpose of this definition, the term "used by the general public" shall be deemed to refer to the insertion of such textiles, fabrics, garments or other articles into a dry cleaning unit or the removal of the same from such unit by a person or persons other than any employee of a dry cleaning establishment or person owning and operating such establishment.

**Coin-Operated Dry Cleaning Machine:** Shall mean the machinery and equipment in which coin-operated dry cleaning shall be conducted.

**Machine Service Area:** That space, separated from the public area by a solid partition, in a premises wherein coin-operated dry cleaning is conducted, where access to the dry cleaning machines can be had and where solvent storage facilities are located.

**Health Department:** The Department of Public Health of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

**Article II Permits and Insurance****Section 15B-3 PERMIT REQUIRED**

It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any of the provisions of this chapter and it shall be unlawful for any person to establish, maintain or operate a coin-operated dry cleaning machine without having procured from the Health Department a permit to conduct such business, which said permit shall be for the current year and shall not have been suspended by the Director.

**Section 15B-4 APPLICATION**

- (a) The application for a permit or for any renewal thereof to establish, maintain or operate one or more coin-operated dry cleaning machines shall be in writing and shall state the specific location of said machines. It shall also describe in detail the coin-operated dry cleaning machine proposed to be installed, and there shall be included detailed installation, operation and maintenance manuals for the machine; it shall describe in detail the design and type of construction of the building in which the applicant intends to locate the machine. It shall also be accompanied by a drawing showing the floor plan of the said building, the location of equipment including the said coin-operated dry cleaning machines and any dryers; it shall also show the location of all drains, pipes, fans, exhausts, vents, window stacks, tanks, dikes and filters. The Health Department, before issuing any letter of intent, shall cause an investigation to be made of the premises named and described in the application for the purpose of determining whether, pursuant to the terms of this chapter and all other applicable local laws, the proposed location is suitable for the purposes intended.
- (b) If the Health Department, through its Director, shall be satisfied from its own investigation and from the reports of the other City departments concerned, that the proposed coin-operated dry cleaning machines and the premises proposed for their location are in conformity or can be brought into conformity with the provisions of this chapter and all other applicable local laws relating thereto, it shall issue or cause to be issued, a letter of intent authorizing installation of the machines. If the Health Department shall not be so satisfied it shall so advise the applicant setting forth the reasons for denial.
- (c) When the coin-operated dry cleaning machines are installed in the premises and the owner or operator is prepared to open for business, the Health Department shall be advised. If the Health Department, through its Director, shall be satisfied that the machines, accessory equipment and the premises on which they are located conform to the applicant's plans, the provisions of this chapter and all other applicable local laws, it shall issue or cause to be issued a permit authorizing the establishment, maintenance and operation of coin-operated dry cleaning machines.

**Section 15B-5 PERMIT FEE**

Permits issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire on December 31 of each year, such a permit shall be displayed in a prominent location on the premises. Each application for a permit shall be accompanied by an application fee in the amount of Ten Dollars (\$10.00), and each application for renewal of a permit shall be accompanied by

an application fee in the amount of One Dollar (\$1.00). All such fees shall be paid to the City Collector. Any change of ownership shall require a new application and permit, with payment of fees therefor.

**Section 15B-6 PUBLIC LIABILITY AND PROPERTY DAMAGE INSURANCE**

Public liability insurance in an amount of \$100,000/\$300,000 and property damage insurance in an amount of \$5,000.00 shall be carried by every permit holder under this chapter and such insurance shall be kept in force at all times while such permit holder holds a valid permit to operate coin-operated dry cleaning machines in this City.

**Article III Installation**

**Section 15B-7 BUILDINGS**

No permit shall be issued for the location of a coin-operated dry cleaning machine in any building more than one story in height nor in any building used in part as a dwelling. All such buildings shall be of masonry construction with concrete floors. The walls of such buildings shall be of masonry and this shall include partition walls between adjoining premises, and these walls shall be carried to the roof of the building and shall be as airtight as if they were parapet walls.

**Section 15B-8 DIKING**

No coin-operated dry cleaning machine shall be placed or installed unless there is provided either in the base of the machine or on the floor of the building directly beneath the machine, a system of diking at least 3" high composed of a non-porous material which forms an enclosure of sufficient size to hold a liquid volume equal to 20% of the maximum quantity of solvent which is contained in such machine. Each such diked enclosure shall be fitted with a 2" drain which shall lead to a buried tank of sufficient size to accept 20% of the solvent contained in the machine system for which it is to be used, but it shall have a minimum capacity of at least 50 gallons.

**Section 15B-9 SOURCES OF DANGER**

In any premises in which there are located coin-operated dry cleaning machines, all storage tanks, power boxes and other sources of danger shall be so situated as to be inaccessible to the general public.

**Section 15B-10 DRYERS**

No coin-operated dry cleaning machines shall be located within ten (10) feet of any gas-fired dryer or similar gas-fired device, provided however that gas-fired dryers when vented to the outside and fitted with air intakes as required by this chapter and when located in an airtight enclosure which allows only the face of the machine to be exposed shall not fall within this prohibition.

**Section 15B-11 AIR INTAKES**

In any premises in which there are located coin-operated dry cleaning machines, all combustion air intakes for heat processing equipment shall be located outside the premises and if such air intakes are located on the roof of any such premises, no part of the aperture through which the air enters the intake shall be lower than any parapet or similar structure capable of trapping or confining vapors from fluids used in the dry cleaning equipment, but in no event shall it be less than five (5) feet above the roof line.

**Section 15B-12 EXITS**

In any premises in which there are located coin-operated dry cleaning machines, there shall be provided no less than two (2) exits both of which must lead directly to the outside. These exits shall be at least twenty-five (25) feet apart except that in those instances where the premises in which said machines are located has a frontage of less than thirty (30) feet, such exits shall be separated by a distance at least equal to the frontage of such premises, less the width of said exits.

**Section 15B-13 UNDERWRITERS LABORATORY APPROVAL**

All coin-operated dry cleaning machines operated in this City must have the Underwriters Laboratory seal of approval.

**Section 15B-14 SOLVENT STORAGE**

All premises in which there are located coin-operated dry cleaning machines shall be equipped with storage facilities for the solvent used in the dry cleaning process, which shall be airtight and shall be designed to prevent spillage, leakage or evaporation and which aggregate capacity shall not exceed one hundred ten (110) gallons. The solvent shall be transferred from such facilities through a line free of leaks. If a pump is used it must be a suction pump. No filling of such facilities shall take place anywhere within said premises except in the machine service area.

**Section 15B-15 MACHINE SERVICE AREA**

All coin-operated dry cleaning machines shall be installed so that only the front or customer side of the machine is exposed to the public, the balance of the machine shall only be accessible from the machine service area. This shall be accomplished by designing and constructing a wall in the premises which makes provision for the placement of the machines in its face in such a manner that when the machines are in place, they and the wall form a solid partition which separates and seals off the machine service area from the public area. Access to the machine service area shall be gained through doors equipped with locks and kept locked at all times. The wall shall be designed to allow an air-flow from the public area to the machine service area through grilles or ducts located as close as practicable to the machines, and sized on the basis of 500 c.f.m. per square foot of grille area.

**Section 15B-16 EXHAUST SYSTEM**

All coin-operated dry cleaning machines shall be equipped with an exhaust system capable of maintaining a minimum of one hundred (100) feet per minute face velocity through the loading door when opened. This system shall terminate at vent stacks projecting not less than five (5) feet above the roof and these stacks shall be located no less than fifteen (15) feet from any air intake. Such machines shall also be equipped with one or more 2" scavenger pipes, or the equivalent, extending to a point not less than 6" from the floor and connected to the machine's exhaust system.

**Section 15B-17 REQUIRED EQUIPMENT**

All coin-operated dry cleaning machines shall be equipped with an inter-lock system to prevent the loading door from being opened during the normal cycle of the machine. This system shall be either electrical or mechanical and should be so constructed that in the

event of malfunction it shall fail safe. Such machines shall also be equipped with lint traps.

#### Section 15B-18 DUCTWORK

All ductwork in any premises in which there is conducted coin-operated dry cleaning must be sealed (soldered or taped) and all discharge stacks must extend to a minimum of five (5) feet above the roof line.

#### Section 15B-19 MINIMUM AIR FLOW RATE

All premises in which there are located coin-operated dry cleaning machines must be equipped with an exhaust system capable of maintaining a minimum flow rate of air from the customer area through the partition required in Section 15B-15 to the machine service area as follows:

Number of Machines	Minimum Air Flow Rate Per Machine (C.F.M.)
1 - 3	500
4 - 8	400
9 - 16	375
17 or more	360

#### Section 15B-20 EMERGENCY VENTILATION EQUIPMENT

The machine service area of any coin-operated dry cleaning machine site shall be equipped with one or more general ventilation fans to be used only in the event of solvent leakage or other emergency. This ventilation equipment shall be capable of changing the air in the machine service area once a minute.

#### Section 15B-21 TEMPERED MAKE UP AIR

All premises in which there are located three (3) or more coin-operated dry cleaning machines shall be provided with equipment which induces a supply of tempered make up air in an amount equal to or greater than the volume of air exhausted from the building by the ventilating equipment required for the operation of the machines.

#### Section 15B-22 WIRING PLAN

The wiring plan for any premises in which there is conducted coin-operated dry cleaning must be so designed that the coin-operated dry cleaning machines cannot be operated unless the ventilation system here required for the operation of the machine is simultaneously in operation.

#### Section 15B-23 FIRE AND RESPIRATORY EQUIPMENT

Two utility fire extinguishers of either the carbon dioxide or dry chemical type must be provided for use against electrical fires in premises containing coin-operated dry cleaning machines. Respiratory equipment of a type approved by the Alexandria Bureau of Fire Prevention shall also be provided for use by maintenance personnel and it must be kept in good repair and available for immediate use.

### Article IV Operation

#### Section 15B-24 CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP

Every permit holder under this chapter shall notify the Health Department prior to any sale, assignment or change in ownership of the premises named in the permit.

**Section 15B-25 QUALIFIED ATTENDANT**

A qualified attendant employed by the permit holder shall be present at all times when premises where coin-operated dry cleaning machines are located are open for business. A qualified attendant shall be deemed to be a person over twenty-one years, who is generally familiar with the equipment in the permit holder's premises, who has a knowledge of what action to take to protect the public in the event of an emergency arising by virtue of a malfunction in the equipment and who has been approved by the Health Department as a person of the required age and possessed of this knowledge.

**Section 15B-26 SIGNS**

All premises in which coin-operated dry cleaning is conducted shall prominently display one or more signs setting forth step by step instruction for the use of the machines. A telephone number must be listed for emergency assistance. It shall also clearly warn of the danger of excessive solvent vapor inhalation and the danger of skin irritation from contact with the dry cleaning solvent.

**Section 15B-27 SOLVENT**

Coin-operated dry cleaning machines shall be operated only with the solvent specified by the machines' manufacturer, but in no event shall solvents classified as flammable at ordinary temperatures and in normal use be employed in any machine, and in the event that Perchloroethylene or any fluorinated hydrocarbon is used, its odor shall not be masked or altered in any way.

**Section 15B-28 VAPOR**

No coin-operated dry cleaning machine shall be used if the concentration of Perchloroethylene or fluorinated hydrocarbon is greater than 200 parts to 1,000,000 parts of air anywhere in the building in which said machines are located.

**Section 15B-29 RESIDUE**

Filter residue and other residue containing cleaning solvent used in coin-operated dry cleaning machines shall be disposed of under the direction of the Health Department. Temporary storage of this material shall be in a covered metal container either kept in the machine service area or locked and anchored outside the building.

**Section 15B-30 MAINTENANCE**

All ventilation equipment, piping, ducting and all other equipment required by this chapter shall be kept clean and in good operating condition.

**Article V Suspension And Penalties****Section 15B-31 SUSPENSION**

If the Director or his duly authorized representative finds that probable cause exists for the suspension of a person's permit to operate coin-operated dry cleaning machines and that the health and safety of those who utilize those machines is menaced, he may enter an order for the immediate suspension of the coin-operated dry cleaning operation until such time as he finds that such probable cause for suspension no longer exists. No person shall operate coin-operated dry cleaning machines when subject to an order of suspension.

**Section 15B-32 REINSTATEMENT**

The Director or his duly authorized representative may reinstate suspended permit if no fact or condition then exists which would warrant the Director or his duly authorized representative to refuse to grant a permit under the terms of this chapter and other applicable local laws.

**Section 15B-33 PENALTY**

Any person who shall fail, refuse or neglect to comply with the provision of this chapter shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine not exceeding Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), and every failure, refusal or neglect to fully and completely comply with the provisions of this chapter and each day's continuance thereof beyond the time specified shall constitute a separate offense. Violations of the provisions of the chapter may also be restrained, prohibited or enjoined by appropriate proceedings.

**Section 15B-34 COMPLIANCE WITH CODE**

Nothing contained in this chapter shall excuse any permit holder from compliance with any and all other applicable provisions of the Alexandria City Code.

**Section 15B-35 OPERATION PRIOR TO ORDINANCE**

Any person operating coin-operated dry cleaning machines on the effective date of this ordinance shall be permitted sixty (60) days from such date to bring the premises wherein such operation is conducted and all the equipment therein into full compliance with the terms of this chapter.

**Section 15B-36 SEPARABILITY**

If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this chapter should be declared invalid for any reason whatsoever, such decision shall not affect the remaining portion of this chapter, which shall remain in full force and effect; and to this end the provisions of this chapter are hereby declared to be severable.

Section 2. That this ordinance shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City not later than five (5) days following its introduction together with a notice containing the time and place for a public hearing. The Clerk of the Council shall note the date of introduction and first reading, the date of publication, the date of the public hearing, and the date of the second reading and final passage in the minutes of the meeting. This ordinance shall become effective the date of its final passage.

FRANK E. MANN

Mayor

Final Passage: Nov. 14, 1961