

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AIR QUALITY DIVISION
ACTIVITY REPORT: On-site Inspection

N135673465

FACILITY: Huhtamaki, Inc.		SRN / ID: N1356
LOCATION: 5700 W SHAFFER RD, COLEMAN		DISTRICT: Bay City
CITY: COLEMAN		COUNTY: MIDLAND
CONTACT: Jeff Skym, Plant Manager		ACTIVITY DATE: 08/22/2024
STAFF: Benjamin Witkopp	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Facility Inspection		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On August 22, 2024 Ben Witkopp of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy - Air Quality Division (EGLE-AQD) inspected Huhtamaki Packaging. The facility is located just southwest of Coleman Michigan at 5700 West Shaffer Rd. Mr. Hans Ruffer, the Maintenance Manager for the site and the previous contact, had retired. Jeff Skym is the relatively new Plant Manager. Jeff did not know of any AQD regulations, permits etc. concerning the site. I explained to him that based upon the previous AQD inspection the operations at that time were exempt from permitting and all the existing permits had been voided. The exemptions would have been those existing prior to the changes AQD made Dec 20, 2016 and those (old ones) are the ones referenced below. An overview of AQD was provided prior to checking the facility's current status.

Jeff stated they conduct plastic extrusion and thermoforming as in the past. However printing no longer occurs. This was not surprising because Hans had previously stated he foresaw the process being removed due to low demand. The process used paint in a pad printer to apply logos, designs, etc. to products. A wide variety of products are produced which include, but are not limited to, cups, bowls, and storage containers. Basically, resin pellets are stored in silos, the plastic is extruded into sheets, and the sheets are then formed into the desired products by thermoforming them.

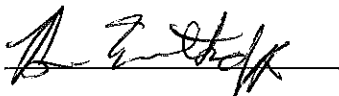
We toured the facility and they now have 15 storage silos as opposed the previous 12. Jeff said production has been on a slow but steady increase over the years. The silos would be exempt under rule 286b. The clear virgin plastic pellets come into the facility for blending. The virgin plastic is blended with regrind (colored) for subsequent production use. The facility currently has 13 production lines whereas last time it had 11. Each production line does thermoforming and each line has 1-5 extruders of varying size with a total of 31 extruders in the facility. The blended plastic is then extruded into various thicknesses and sheet sizes. Extrusion is exempt via rule 286a. The sheets subsequently undergo thermoforming to produce the desired product. The thermoforming is exempt via rule 286(d). Trimmings are not wasted but reground for incorporation with virgin plastic pellets in the blender. The grinding is exempt via rule 285 I (vi) (B) as emissions are only released in plant.

Acetone is used to clean dies and tooling in a maintenance area. The acetone is primarily dispensed via small plunger type cans. A 17 inch by 38 inch cold cleaner is rarely used. It was reportedly installed in the 2009 to 2010 time frame. It would be exempt from permitting by rule 281(h) which applies to cold cleaners having an air/vapor interface of not more than 10 square feet. Operating instructions were posted and the lid was closed. It is only used when a piece of equipment needs to be soaked for an extended time to become clean. Based on discussions with maintenance staff and others, about one 55 gallon drum of acetone is used per year. It should be noted acetone is not considered to be a volatile organic compound (VOC).

Jeff was later provided with a link to an electronic copy of the air permit exemption handbook and sent stickers for cold cleaner operating instructions.

The facility is considered to be in compliance.

NAME



DATE

9-22-24

SUPERVISOR

