

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AIR QUALITY DIVISION
ACTIVITY REPORT: Scheduled Inspection

N135643859

FACILITY: Huhtamaki, Inc.		SRN / ID: N1356
LOCATION: 5700 W SHAFFER RD, COLEMAN		DISTRICT: Saginaw Bay
CITY: COLEMAN		COUNTY: MIDLAND
CONTACT: Hans Ruffer, Maintenance Manager		ACTIVITY DATE: 03/28/2018
STAFF: Benjamin Witkopp	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Facility inspection		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

Ben Witkopp and Matt Karl of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality - Air Quality Division (MDEQ-AQD) inspected Hutamaki Packaging. The facility is located just southwest of Coleman Michigan at 5700 West Shaffer Rd. We met with Mr. Hans Ruffer, the Maintenance Manager for the site. Hans readily admitted he didn't know of any AQD regulations, permits etc. concerning the site. I explained to him that based upon an AQD inspection conducted back in 2007 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. I confirmed we were there to check the facility's current status.

Hans stated they conduct plastic extrusion, thermoforming, and a small amount of printing. 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. Only a tiny fraction need designs, logos etc. painted on them.

We toured the facility and they have 12 storage silos which would be exempt under rule 286b. The clear virgin plastic pellets comes into the facility for blending. The virgin plastic is blended with regrind (colored) for subsequent production use. The facility currently has 11 production lines. Each production line does thermoforming and each line has 1-5 extruders of varying size with a total of 23-24 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). Acetone is used to clean dies and tooling. The leftover plastic trimmings are ground for use back in the blender. The grinding is exempt via rule 285 I (vi) (B) as emissions are only released in plant.

Only a small amount of product requires the application of logos, designs, and the like. Paint is applied via a pad printer which is exempt rule 285 (l)(ix) for pad printing. A blanket wash is used to clean. Hans said the painting operation will likely be phased out due to very low demand.

Once back in Hans's office he provided some information about the facility materials and their usages. The painting is conducted using UVACURID 75/75 and Colormagic 77/78. Volatile organic compound content was only 0.013 pounds per gallon. The blanket wash contained toluene, hexane, and acetone and at % of up to 50% each. I told Hans he should get a more specific data sheet to better delineate the ingredients. The specific gravity was 0.786. Quarterly usage of inks in 2017 was 88 44 66 and 22 pounds. One 55 gallon drum of blanket wash was ordered in the first quarter of 2017 followed by another the second quarter and none after that. Use of blanket wash is considered part of the pad printing operation.

Acetone to clean dies and tooling in the facility had order amounts of one 55 gallon drum in the first quarter of 2017 and another in the third quarter. One full drum was seen on site. This amount of acetone usage is easily less than the limits found in rule 290 (a) (l).

NAME B. WitkoppDATE 8-29-18SUPERVISOR C. Hale