



400 Walker Street
Lawton, MI 49065

Ms. Amanda Chapel
Environmental Quality Analyst
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Air Quality Division
Kalamazoo District Office
7953 Adobe Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49009-5026

Re: Response to Violation Notice Letter
Welch Foods Inc., Lawton, Michigan (SRN N1461)



Dear Ms. Chapel:

This letter is in response to your Violation Notice (VN), dated July 23, 2018, to Welch Foods, Inc. (Welch's) referencing a July 12, 2018, inspection. The VN alleges the records submitted to show compliance for EUADHESIVES with Rule 290(2)(a)(i) are not complete.

The specific allegation cited in the VN is summarized as the following:

Process Description	Rule/Permit Condition Violated	Comments
EUADHESIVES	Rule 290(2)(a)(i)	The records submitted by the Facility to show EUADHESIVES compliance with Rule 290 are not complete. Only VOC are currently being tracked and not all noncarcinogenic VOC and noncarcinogenic materials in the adhesive.

Further, the VN indicates:

Rule 290 specifically requires tracking "any emission unit that emits only noncarcinogenic volatile organic compounds or noncarcinogenic materials that are listed in R336.122(f) as not contributing appreciably to the formation of ozone, if the total uncontrolled or controlled emissions of air contaminants are not more than 1,000 or 500 pounds per month, respectively". Current records are only tracking volatile organic compounds (VOC) and not noncarcinogenic materials.

EUADHESIVES was installed June 19, 1996. At that time, Rule 290(a) read as follows:



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Rule 290. The requirement of R 336.1201(1) to obtain a permit to install does not apply to any process or process equipment that emits only noncarcinogenic volatile organic compounds if all of the following provisions are met:

(a) The uncontrolled emissions of volatile organic compounds do not exceed 1,000 pounds per month.

Under the current version of the rule, *emissions* of noncarcinogenic volatile organic compounds or noncarcinogenic materials that are listed in R336.122(f) as not contributing appreciably to the formation of ozone must not exceed 1,000 pounds per month for an uncontrolled source. EUADHESIVES does not have emissions of noncarcinogenic materials that are listed in R336.122(f) as not contributing appreciably to the formation of ozone.

As our consultant (Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. [FTCH]) discussed with you, Welch's believes the records provided to you following your inspection were complete per the requirements of Rule 290(2)(a)(i). We are tracking the components that are required under the rule. The additional components that were believed to be necessary to include in the air records are not, in fact, emitted from the process. They need not be tracked monthly to demonstrate compliance with the exemption. Therefore, we believe our records tracking *VOC emissions* satisfies the requirements of both the current version of Rule 290(2)(a)(i) and the historical Rule 290(a) that was in effect at the time of the equipment installation.

However, to avoid confusion in the future and confirm all components have been reviewed, our air records have been updated. No changes to reported emissions for EUADHESIVES were required as a result of this review.

For better clarity, we also made the following updates to our air records:

- Emission rates for sulfur dioxide (SO₂) have been added and demonstrate compliance with the various SO₂ emission limits set forth in Permit to Install No. 713-86C;
- A separate table for the hot melt adhesive application in the packaging process was created, as it is exempt pursuant to Rule 287(2)(i). Previously, hot melt adhesive usage had been included in the Rule 290 table for EUADHESIVES.

Copies of the air recordkeeping tables are attached for your review and consideration. Review of this information confirms that Welch's meets the requirements of Rule 290 and is not in violation of the rule. We respectfully request the MDEQ rescind the July 23, 2018, VN.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 269.760.8089.

Sincerely,



400 Walker Street
Lawton, MI 49065

WELCH'S FOOD, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bart Leonard".

Bart Leonard
Technical Services Manager

Attachments

By email and UPS – Confirmation of Delivery Required

cc/att: Ms. Mary Douglas – MDEQ, AQD District Supervisor, Kalamazoo District Office

Ms. Jenine Camilleri – MDEQ, AQD Enforcement Unit Supervisor, PO Box 30260, Lansing, MI
48909-7760

Mr. William J. Bulkowski – FTCH (By email only)