

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
AIR QUALITY DIVISION  
ACTIVITY REPORT: Complaint Investigation**

U50160302234258

FACILITY: Form Tech Industries		SRN / ID: N7263
LOCATION: 18450 15 MILE ROAD, FRASER		DISTRICT: Southeast Michigan
CITY: FRASER		COUNTY: MACOMB
CONTACT:		ACTIVITY DATE: 03/30/2016
STAFF: Tyler Salamasick	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Non Compliance	SOURCE CLASS:
SUBJECT: Fugitive dust complaint due to malfunctioning equipment.		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS: C-16-01174		

## Background

Formtech Industries LLC of Fraser is an automotive cold steel forging and machining facility located at 18450 15 Mile, Fraser, MI. The manufacturing facility was inspected on Wednesday 3/30/2016 by Tyler Salamasick and Joyce Zhu of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division. The intent of the inspection was to follow up on complaint number C-16-01174 and to determine the source of metallic particulate fallout located at both Moldtech 34497 Kelly Rd, Fraser, MI 48026 and BMT Aerospace USA 18559 Malyn Blvd, Fraser, MI 48026. Formtech does not currently hold any air permits, however they do have an exempt baghouse for steel shot blasting operations.

## Inspection

Site arrival was at 1:50pm Wednesday afternoon. The weather conditions were 61F with a SSE wind at 5 mph and it was mostly cloudy (weatherunderground.com). Formtech is located in a primarily light industrial/commercial area with the nearest residential structure approximately 0.1 miles North from the facility. The affected neighboring facilities are both approximately 0.05 miles south of Formtech's fabric filter particulate control system. I was greeted by BMT representatives Matthew Richey and Barb Hoepf. After meeting we inspected the cars that had metal particulate imbedded in the paint. The cars were speckled with what appears to be imbedded rust and steel particles. Some of the vehicles also had a fine to coarse metal particulate matter built up on the paint and edges of the car windows. I took samples for microscopic analysis off of two of the cars, one white Dodge van and a white Ford F150 (the red circles in diagram 1). Matthew informed us that BMT Aerospace employees had noticed a rust colored dust coming out of the side of the Formtech facility a few days prior which triggered the complaint. I took two samples from the parking lot, one from a white van and another from a Ford truck.

After speaking with BMT, Joyce and I met with Formtech representatives Ron Parrish and Eric Schassberger. Ron Parrish is Formtech's operations manager and Eric Schassberger is their maintenance and forging manager. They informed me that they did have issues with steel particulate matter escaping from their baghouse but they have since hired contractors whom replaced the filters. They also informed us that they were planning on installing higher quality filters with a pressure drop device in the next few weeks. The pressure drop device will cut power from the steel blast equipment if it detects a loss in pressure. This is to ensure that if there is another filter breach the fugitive emissions will not leave the facility. I requested that they send me supporting documentation for the repairs to the filter as well as the installation of the pressure drop device. We took a walk around the facility to inspect the baghouse, in order to determine if it was functioning properly. During the time of the inspection the equipment was not being used. There was a large amount of soil contaminated with steel rust surrounding the baghouse as highlighted with yellow in diagram 1. I also noticed two 5 inch tall piles of steel dust on the ground underneath the filter area of the pollution control equipment. These observations are consistent with an improperly functioning baghouse. After inspecting the equipment Ron and Eric took us inside the facility to see what equipment the pollution control equipment served. The only machinery observed that is connected to the baghouse is a steel shot blasting machine which is used for finishing parts. This machine generates steel dust which is removed with vents that channel to the fabric filter pollution control device. When the steel dust is collected it is directed into barrels which Formtech manually removes.

## Lab Results

Both samples were sent to Grand Rapids Environmental Laboratory for analysis. The results came back on 4/15/16 and inconclusive with my observations. Both samples appear to be consistent with fallout from

combustion.

Conclusion

Air Quality staff need to conduct another site inspection before being able to confirm compliance with all applicable state air pollution control rules.

Diagram 1.



**Image 1(diagram 1) : Map of the facility.**

NAME *[Signature]*

DATE 5/3/16

SUPERVISOR *CJE*