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Mawila

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

P087045967

FACILITY: Superior Casket Company		SRN / ID: P0870
LOCATION: 26789 Fullerton, REDFORD TWP		DISTRICT: Detroit
CITY: REDFORD TWP		COUNTY: WAYNE
CONTACT:		ACTIVITY DATE: 08/23/2018
STAFF: Gerald Krawiec	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: Minor
SUBJECT: Scheduled Inspection for FY 2018 and Complaint Investigation		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

AQD staff conducted a scheduled inspection for FY 2018 of Superior Casket Company, located in Redford Township. The purpose of the inspection is to determine the facility's compliance with applicable state and federal air pollution rules and regulations. Shop Foreman, Joe Calabro accompanied AQD staff on the inspection.

Background:

Superior Casket Company services licensed funeral homes in the greater Metropolitan Detroit and surrounding areas. Superior Casket offers a custom approach to casket selection. Since 1971, Superior Casket has been building a full line of custom caskets.

Superior Casket is located in the middle of an industrial area, the nearest residential homes are located north of the plant, approximately 100 yards from the paint spray booth exhaust stack.

Complaint History:

May 5, 2017, EPA forwarded an anonymous complaint alleging odors from the painting of caskets to AQD Detroit Office. Odor observations were conducted without verification of odorous emissions.

Process Description:

Superior Casket receives prebuilt metal and wood casket shells and customizes them to fit the customer needs. Basically, Superior hand crafts and installs casket interiors. There is a sewing room with several persons and commercial sewing machines hard at work hand crafting, from a wide variety of cloth, interiors to be installed in the prebuilt shell. Approximately 85% of the casket shells that Superior receives are pre-finished requiring only the interior upholstery to be installed and some exterior cleaning to be ready for delivery to a licensed funeral home. The remaining metal casket shells arrive with a coat of primer only. These shells are ready for a finished custom paint job. All paint is applied in a paint spray booth.

Inspection Narrative:

Foreman Joe Calabro and the writer took a tour of the facility. Starting at the sewing room where several employees were at work behind commercial sewing machine creating the interior upholstery that will be installed in the caskets. Several different fabrics and designs can be combined to create a special design to fill any customer request.

A large area of the building is used for storage of the shell caskets. 85% of the caskets are either painted metal or wooden. The metal caskets are either finish painted or prime coated (ready to paint) when they arrive. Wooden caskets can be either hardwood or lower quality wood like products.

Ron Berry, Plant Manager, joined us at the back of the building where the paint spray booth is located. This booth is a replacement that was installed about 5 years ago. The size of the booth is approximately 7 feet deep X 10 feet wide with a large bank of dry filters on the back wall. Exhaust gases are discharged vertically through the roof. The stack height and diameter are unknown but appear adequate. Although installed by Savard Sheet

Metal the booth did not have any identifying markings such as manufactures name or model number. This spray booth is in very good condition with all filters in place, fan was started in-order to demonstrate the unit is operational.

The booth may be in use a maximum of 8 – 10 hours per month (including drying time). Air drying of the painted surface is sometimes supplemented with the use of electric heating lambs. If a custom paint color is applied to an unpainted casket that may require about 20oz. of paint. Some painted caskets have accents or trim color added in this case the colors are added using hand held spray paint cans. The paint storage/mix area is very small with only a few colors. It is clear this paint spray booth gets very little use.

Post Inspection:

Upon return to the front office, the office staff were unable find any paperwork regarding the installation of the paint spray booth. They did recall that Savard Sheet Metal built the booth as that company had done other plant ventilation work for Superior in the past. Superiors' President Mark Ferro was out of the office at the time and not answering his phone.

Paint purchase and usage records were not found either. Based on the inspection and size of this paint spray booth it is not possible for this company to exceed the limit (200 gallons) of coating applied per month as a condition in Rule 287(2)(c). Therefore, I explained that records of the coating used must be maintained on a monthly basis and that in future inspections that information may be required. In addition, I informed them of the DEQ website where they can find more information on this rule and a Record Keeping Form.

Regulatory Summary:

The writer searched the file of WC Certificates of Operation for this facility but unable to find one.

Rule 287(2)(c) of the Michigan Air Pollution Control Rules exempts surface coating operations (paint spray booths) from the Permit to Install program if certain conditions are met. This Rule applies to this facility.

Compliance Determination:

Based upon this inspection of Superior Casket Company, it appears this facility is operating in compliance with all applicable air quality rules and regulations.

NAME Bj Krause

DATE 3/6/19

SUPERVISOR JK