

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

U13160432634329

FACILITY: Kreps Car Audio		SRN / ID: U131604326
LOCATION: 1382 Michigan Avenue West, Battle Creek		DISTRICT: Kalamazoo
CITY: Battle Creek		COUNTY: CALHOUN
CONTACT: Mike Kreps , Owner		ACTIVITY DATE: 04/20/2016
STAFF: Rex Lane	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS:
SUBJECT: Complaint Investigation and Inspection		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On April 8, 2016, USEPA, Region V forwarded a complaint regarding Kreps Car Audio to the MDEQ Kalamazoo District office, Air Quality Division (AQD) to conduct a follow up complaint investigation. The complainant alleges the facility is paint spraying cars with doors open and particulate matter and spray is coming out along with associated odors and that the facility is also dumping antifreeze on the ground. A copy of the redacted complaint is attached to this report because the complainant requested confidentiality.

April 14, 2016:

AQD staff (Rex Lane) called the complainant to get further details prior to conducting a complaint investigation. The complainant stated that the problems started four to six weeks ago with the facility keeping the garage bay doors open and spray painting cars a couple days per week. The complainant further stated that they may be buying cars for repair and resale and may be dumping antifreeze and other fluids on the ground. The complainant also complained about the noise levels from the facility but staff stated that they did not have the authority to regulate noise levels from the facility.

April 20, 2016:

AQD staff (Rex Lane and Amanda Chapel) arrived at the facility at 9:30 am and noted a paint odor upon entering the main entrance to the facility. Staff made contact with Kreps' employee, Mr. Josh DePuy and stated the purpose of their visit and provided him with a copy of MDEQ's environmental inspection pamphlet and business cards. Mr. DePuy called the facility owner, Mr. Mike Kreps, but he had another appointment and wouldn't be available for at least an hour so Mr. DePuy answered staff's questions. The facility is a car audio and auto accessories (e.g. running boards, personalized floor mats, etc.) installer. Mr. DePuy showed staff the two bays in the facility and the associated bay doors were closed at the time of the inspection. One bay had an SUV that he was installing running boards on and the second bay had a scooter that he was installing a subwoofer in under the seat. The speaker boxes are fabricated on-site from fiberboard panels and staff noted some wood sanding dust on the floor. There is no dust collection, filtration or exhaust system associated with the speaker fabrication process. Staff asked and Mr. DePuy stated that they use paint spray cans only to apply either a chip or rock guard to automobiles and spray can adhesive on speaker boxes so that they can be covered in black fabric. Staff also asked Mr. DePuy and he stated that no paint stripping or sand blasting is done at the facility. The facility has a small gas fired furnace and a gas fired space heater for the work bays. Staff thanked Mr. DePuy for his time and then walked around the exterior of the facility. No paint spray residue or sawdust was noted on the concrete pad outside the bay garage doors. No evidence of dumping of antifreeze on to the ground was observed on the premises or into the storm drain adjacent to Michigan Avenue. There was some oil staining noted on the pavement behind the northeast corner of the building in a fenced in area, however, it appeared to be an historic discharge. There was one metal 55 gallon drum and one plastic barrel for trash inside the fenced along with a weekly solid waste receptacle.

The use of hand-held aerosol spray cans at the facility to apply paint and/or adhesive is exempt from air use permitting requirements under Rule 287(b). The speaker box fabrication and wood sanding process is exempt from air use permitting under Rule 285(I)(vi)(B) provided the sanding dust is contained in the work bays and is not allowed to be released outside of the building. At the time of the complaint investigation and inspection, the facility appeared to be exempt from air use permitting requirements and in compliance with state air quality regulations.

Staff contacted the complainant upon returning to the office and provided them with a summary of staff's inspection and findings. -RIL

Post-inspection:

Staff had a voice mail message from Mr. Mike Kreps concerning the visit from MDEQ staff and staff returned his call. Mr. Kreps stated that his business opened at this location about six months ago and it was a service shop before he moved in. The fenced in area had about 100 scrap tires and several drums of used oil when he leased the property. Mr. Kreps had to pay someone to remove the tires and transport the used oil to an oil recycler. The remaining metal drum in the fenced area is empty according to Mr. Kreps. Mr. Kreps indicated that he power washed the garage bay floors after he moved in and the wash water went into the floor drain. The floor drain is now covered up with a board and he said he is aware that chemicals should not be dumped down the floor drain.

Mr. Kreps also stated that they sometimes blow the collected wood dust outside through the open garage doors. Staff informed Mr. Kreps that this activity had to stop and that this activity was probably responsible for the complaint and observations by the complainant that the business appeared to be spray painting to the outside air. Staff informed Mr. Kreps that in order to meet our rule requirements (i.e. Rule 285(1)(vi)(B)) described above in the inspection report, the facility cannot allow wood dust to escape the facility and would need to either vacuum or sweep up the accumulated dust and place it in their weekly solid waste receptacle for disposal. Mr. Kreps indicated that he understood this requirement. Staff stated that a copy of the inspection report would be mailed to Mr. Kreps for his record.

Mr. Kreps asked about a letter he received from USEPA about a regulation (i.e. 40 CFR Part 63, Subpart HHHHHH) that may apply to his business and staff suggested that he contact the person who signed the letter to resolve this matter. MDEQ did not take delegation authority for 40 CFR Part 63, Subpart HHHHHH, therefore USEPA retains authority to determine source compliance with this regulation. -RIL

NAME RIL DATE 4/26/16 SUPERVISOR MD 4/27/2016