

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AIR QUALITY DIVISION
ACTIVITY REPORT: Self Initiated Inspection

U50141098826734

FACILITY: Mitsubishi Chemical Performance Polymers, Inc.		SRN / ID: U501410988
LOCATION: 24060 Hoover Road, Warren		DISTRICT: Southeast Michigan
CITY: Warren		COUNTY: MACOMB
CONTACT: Michael F. Martin , Production Manager		ACTIVITY DATE: 09/03/2014
STAFF: Sebastian Kallumkal	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS:
SUBJECT: Onsite Inspection		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On Wednesday, September 3, 2014, I conducted an unannounced self-initiated inspection at Mitsubishi Chemical Performance Polymers, Inc. located at 24060 Hoover Road, Warren, Michigan. The purpose of the inspection was to verify facility's compliance with requirements of Article II, Air Pollution Control, Part 55 of Act 451 of 1994.

I arrived at the facility at about 1:30 PM. At the facility, I met Mr. Michael Martin, Production Manager. I introduced myself and stated the purpose of the visit.

Comtrex used to own this facility since 1969. Mitsubishi Chemical Performance Polymers, Inc. purchased the facility in April 2014. The facility is involved in the production of plastic pallets used in the auto parts manufacturing. The process involves vulcanizing (cross-linking) of synthetic rubber (Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer) with polypropylene polymers to make the thermoplastic vulcanite (TPV). The facility also plasticizes polyvinyl polymers to make it soft and flexible. During the vulcanizing process the various colors are also added to the pallets.

Later Mr. Martin accompanied me for an inspection of the facility. In the production area he further explained the process to me. Synthetic rubber blocks are initially shred into pieces. Talcum powder is added to the shredder/cutter to prevent the rubber pieces from coagulating. The dust from the cutter is controlled by a fabric filter baghouse and the exhaust from the baghouse is vented to general-in-plant area. At the time of my inspection the baghouse was being maintained. Mr. Martin told me that they are going to replace the cutter with a process equipment which does not require powder. The rubber cutting process is performed once a week. The cutting process is exempt from permit to install requirements pursuant to Rule 285(I)(VI)(C).

The rubber pieces and polypropylene beads are vacuum collected into a twin screw compounder. Other additives such as mineral oil, antioxidants, and curatives are also added to the turn screw. The TPV strands are cut into small pieces and collected in recycled water. The TPV beads are dried and then packaged.

Similarly the PVC powder is melted in PVC blender and palletized in a palletizer. The necessary additives are added in the palletizer.

The facility has two twin screw compounders, two PVC palletizers and one PVC blender. The facility has two plastic injection molding machines to make plastic parts (not actual parts) for testing. The plastic injection molding process is exempt from permit to install requirements pursuant to Rule 286(b).

The facility operates 5-6 days per week, and 24 hours per day. It employs about 36 people. I collected the MSDS for the colorants, additives, curatives, etc.

Conclusion: The facility appears to be in compliance with applicable air quality requirements.

NAME S. Kallumkal

DATE 9/5/2014

SUPERVISOR CTE