

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
AIR QUALITY DIVISION

ACTIVITY REPORT: Self Initiated Inspection

FY 2014 Insp-

U6308028326307

FACILITY: Air Boss Flexible Products Company		SRN / ID: U63080283
LOCATION: 2600 Auburn Court, Auburn Hills		DISTRICT: Southeast Michigan
CITY: Auburn Hills		COUNTY: OAKLAND
CONTACT:		ACTIVITY DATE: 08/06/2014
STAFF: Iranna Konanahalli	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	
SUBJECT: FY 2014 inspection of Air Boss Flexible Products Company ("Flexible")		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

E-file: U 63 08 0283 - SAR - 2014 08 06

**Air Boss Flexible Products Company (U-63-08-0283)**

2600 Auburn Court

Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326-3201

Phone: (248) 852-5500

Fax: (248) 852-8620

**MCDS MISC-997**

Name change: Flexible Products Company (U-63-08-0283) → Air Boss Flexible Products Company (U-63-08-0283) due to purchase about October 2013.

Complaint: C-14-0115 (Mr. Shawn Keenan of City of Auburn Hills 248-3646926)

On August 6, 2014, I conducted a complaint investigation and a level 2 self-initiated inspection of Air Boss Flexible Products Company ("Flexible") located at 2600 Auburn Court, Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326-3201. The inspection was conducted to determine compliance with federal Clean Air Act; Article II, Part 55, Air Pollution Control, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451; Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division (MDEQ-AQD) administrative rules.

The FY 2014 inspection was conducted as a result of recent complaints (C-14-0115, 07/30/2014) received by City of Auburn hills. Mr. Keenan (e-mail: skeenan@auburnhills.org) forwarded the complaints to DEQ, which registered it as one collective complaint.

During the inspection, Mr. Kenneth W. Heavner (Phone: 248-293-8605 or 248-852-5500-ext. 605; E-mail: kheavner@flexible-products.com), Supplier Development Engineer, assisted me.

Mr. Doug Reid, President, was not present.

About October 2013 Air Boss purchased Flexible Products Company and prefixed it with Air Boss: Air Boss Flexible Products Company

I observed molded rubber products being manufactured. The Rubber strips are melted and molded into rubber products. The products are made out of natural rubber imported from mostly Malaysia. Mr. Heavner stated that the company S-cured (vulcanized) rubber. I detected odors of rubber inside the plant. I observed several side-discharge vents (8-10) that were used for ventilation. After FY 2008 inspection, the side-discharge vents are equipped with filters to control odor. Unlike intense haze and odor as confirmed during the September 2001 complaint investigation, I observed small amount of haze inside the plant that is less

than haze during FY 2008 inspection.

There are about 53 injection-molding presses; vulcanized rubber is injected into the molds. Of 53 machines, only 30 machines mold rubber and the rest mold silicone, which has no odor. 15 of 30 rubber molding machines are now equipped with carbon canisters for odor and haze control. Exhaust from the machines is discharged into the plant. Carbon canisters have helped control odor and haze.

Unlike CY 2008, in CY 2014 blue haze substantially reduced as result of installation of smog-hogs. 7 machines are equipped with improved emissions capture systems. The captured particulate (blue haze) emissions are controlled by smog-hogs equipped with filters. While five gray units are equipped with only filters, five other blue units are equipped with carbon filters. The plan is to equip each machine with carbon filter smog-hog. Few units still produce blue smoke because they are neither equipped with emissions capture systems nor smog-hog filters.

Rest of rubber molding machines will be equipped with carbon canisters. I asked Mr. Heavner to install the filters as soon as possible so that neighborhood odor may be alleviated. Due to 2008-2011 great recession, Mr. Heavner stated that the company could not install these filters.

Pursuant to Rule 336.1285(l), the machines exhausting to general plant environment are exempt from Rule 336.1201 (Permit-to-Install).

#### **287(b) paint spray booth**

There is one paint spray booth (6 ft. \* 6 ft.) with dry filter system to control paint particulate matter. Only spray cans are used for painting. Pursuant to Rule 336.1287(b), the booth is exempt from Rule 336.1201 (Permit-to-Install).

#### **Conclusion**

This is a source nuisance odor. As a result of the September 2001 May 2008 inspection, Flexible installed carbon canister or smog-hog filters controls on some rubber molding machines. The complaint is resolved.

NAME A. S. Heavner DATE 8/8/2014 SUPERVISOR CTE

# Environmental Management Program Summary

July-2014

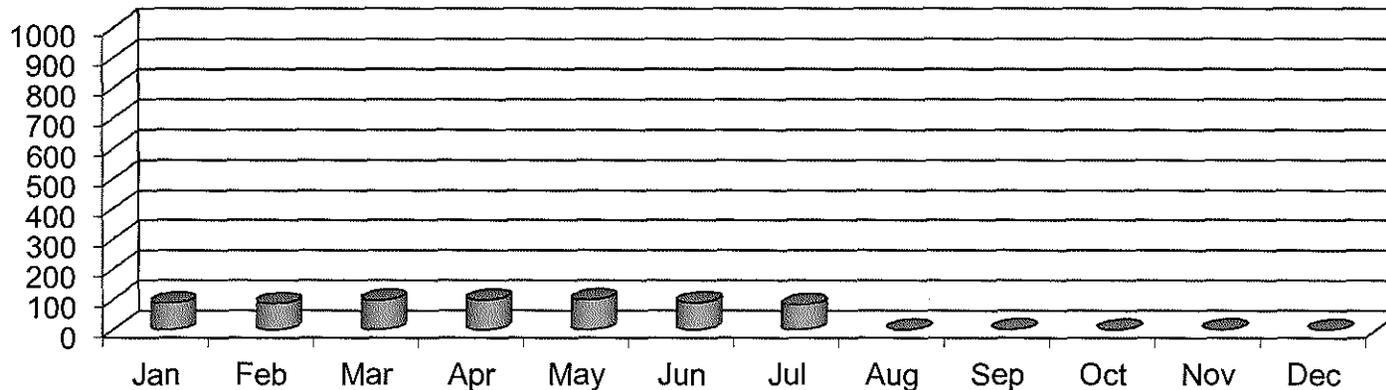


**Team Leader:** Jim Michalek  
**Team Members:** Terry Frazer, Ken Heavner, Bodo Lux  
**Objective:** Comply with Rule 290 Exemption from Permit to Install  
**Target:** < 1000 lbs/Mo.

<b>Environmental Aspect</b>	Odor from heated rubber
<b>Legal/Other Requirements (if applicable)</b>	Article II Air Pollution Control Part 55 of Act 451 of 1994 R336,1901 R336,1201 Michigan Administrative Rules for Pollution Control R336,1290 Michigan Administrative Rules for Pollution Control
<b>Environmental Impact</b>	Contamination of Air

## Emissions from Molding Rubber

*lbs vol/vmo*  
**Total Emissions**



<b>Action Plan (Please Attach All Documentation)</b>	<b>Assigned to</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>	<b>Percent Complete</b>	<b>Actual Completion Date</b>
Installed air filtration system to Press 6	T. Frazer	9/26/2012	100%	9/26/2012
Add exhaust systems for the Plant #2 800 ton presses	T. Frazer	12/17/2012	100%	11/30/2012
Added air filtration to the oven at Plant #2	T. Frazer	2/28/2013	100%	2/28/2013
Install 10 additional air filtration systems for Plant #1	T. Frazer	12/28/2014	75%	