

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AIR QUALITY DIVISION
ACTIVITY REPORT: On-site Inspection

A215865606

FACILITY: Allied Mechanical Services		SRN / ID: A2158
LOCATION: 5688 E M L AVE, KALAMAZOO		DISTRICT: Kalamazoo
CITY: KALAMAZOO		COUNTY: KALAMAZOO
CONTACT: Aaron Cowles , Shop Supervisor		ACTIVITY DATE: 10/25/2022
STAFF: Monica Brothers	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Non Compliance	
SUBJECT: Unannounced scheduled inspection		SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

Staff, Monica Brothers and Sharon Espinosa, arrived on-site at about 11:30 am and met with Aaron Cowles, the Shop Supervisor. Upon arrival, I did not observe any visible emissions or odors coming from the facility. I briefly explained the air quality inspection process to Aaron and asked him some preliminary questions. Allied Mechanical Services machines, bends, forms, cuts, and welds various metal pieces to make products like ductwork. They mostly do work for the heating and cooling industry. They have about one hundred employees at this location, who work one shift, five days a week. They commenced operations about fifteen years ago. They do not have any boilers onsite, but they do have one emergency generator and one parts washer.

During the walk-through of the facility, I observed equipment such as a metal pipe cutter, grinding machines, about 30 welders, a plasma cutter, and a laser table. All of these processes are vented internally. The plasma cutter, grinding machines, and laser table are connected to a filtration device to filter out the particulate matter before venting to the in-plant environment. This equipment can be considered exempt under Rule 285(2)(l)(vi) for the pipe cutting, grinding, plasma cutting, and laser table equipment, and Rule 285(2)(i) for the welding equipment.

I also viewed the emergency generator. It is a 16kW generator that uses natural gas. It runs automatically for 5 minutes per month for readiness testing. It was manufactured on September 22, 2017, and currently has 16.5 hours on the non-resettable hour meter. I also viewed the parts washer, which is a Safety Kleen unit that is not heated or agitated. The unit had the lid closed during the inspection, but I did not see any rules posted, so I gave a rules sticker to Aaron to apply to the unit.

The facility also has a paint booth. During the inspection, they had just finished painting a piece of metal when we walked by. The paint booth did not have any filters in place at that time. Aaron said that they usually do have filters installed but did not know why they weren't in place that day. I let Aaron know that this is considered a violation and that I would be sending a Violation Notice for this. They use only aerosol cans to paint, which does not require a filtration system if the cans are 8 ounces or less; however, they use cans of 16 ounces and therefore need to have properly installed filters in the paint booth in order to comply with the Rule 287(2)(c) exemption. The facility should either switch to using only 8-ounce aerosol cans or comply with the requirement to operate the paint booth only when the filters are installed, and the booth is operating properly. Their paint usage records show that they use very little paint each month, with 4.875 gallons being used in September 2022 and 3.25 gallons in October 2022, which complies with the Rule 287(2)(c) requirement of using no more than 200 gallons per month.

I thanked Aaron for his time and left the facility at about 12:15 pm. A Violation Notice will be sent for the lack of filters in the paint booth.

NAME Monica Kent

DATE 12/1/22

SUPERVISOR RIL 12/1/22