

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

B414571116

<b>FACILITY:</b> AkzoNobel Coatings Inc		<b>SRN / ID:</b> B4145
<b>LOCATION:</b> 120 Franklin, PONTIAC		<b>DISTRICT:</b> Warren
<b>CITY:</b> PONTIAC		<b>COUNTY:</b> OAKLAND
<b>CONTACT:</b> Jeffrey Poniewierski , Process Improvement Supervisor		<b>ACTIVITY DATE:</b> 01/24/2024
<b>STAFF:</b> Mark Dziadosz	<b>COMPLIANCE STATUS:</b> Compliance	<b>SOURCE CLASS:</b> SM OPT OUT
<b>SUBJECT:</b> FY 24 Inspection		
<b>RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:</b>		

On Wednesday, January 24, 2024, I, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy-Air Quality Division (EGLE-AQD) staff Mark Dziadosz, conducted an announced scheduled inspection of AkzoNobel Coatings Inc. (B4145) located at 120 Franklin, Pontiac, MI 48341. The purpose of this inspection was to determine the facility's compliance status with the Federal Clean Air Act Part 55, Air Pollution Control of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act of 1994, PA 451, as amended; Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division (MDEQ-AQD) rules; Opt-Out Permit to Install No. 184-06; and Permit to Install No. 165-19.

I arrived at the facility at 10:00 AM and was met by Mr. Jeff Poniewierski, HSE Business Partner. Prior to the inspection, records were requested and collected electronically and reviewed on 1/17/2024. Upon arrival, Jeff and I discussed the electronic records review and discussed operations. I was then taken on a tour of the facility.

AkzoNobel manufactures paint and coatings for a broad range of applications. Most manufactured products end up at automotive body shops for collision repair. There are approximately 155 employees that operate this plant 5 to 7 days a week during three shifts.

Paint manufacturing at AkzoNobel is a batch process. Constituents of a paint/coating mixture are blended in a mixing tank to create the desired product. A variety of solvents and organic dyes are used in this process. Finished products and raw materials are stored on-site in a separate warehouse from the manufacturing floor.

Paint/coating manufacturing at AkzoNobel can be categorized in one of three batch types: Large batch (LB), small batch (SB), and color blending unit (CBU). The large batch tanks are stationary units larger than 550 gallons that are bolted in place and have permanent dedicated plumbing on each tank. The small batch tanks are portable units smaller than 550 gallons that can be wheeled around. The color blending unit (CBU) manufacturers small batches (less than 250 gallons) with a relatively short lead time (1-2 days). This is possible because the formulation usually includes premixed raw materials that are manufactured in the main

manufacturing area. There are several premixed raw materials that are all attached to a common unit (CBU) that pumps the desired quantities into the batch manufacturing mix tank.

Emissions from this facility are estimated using a commercially available software called PirnieAIR. PirnieAIR is a Microsoft Access database that takes in process specific data and EPA-published equations or AP-42 emission factors to calculate emissions from a batch. The larger paint manufacturing processes utilize around 90 manufacturing steps to calculate emission factors. These steps include adding each solvent, mixing, heating, and gas sweeps.

During a gas sweep, solvent vapors are evacuated during product mixing to prevent an explosive mixture of vapors inside a vessel. Nitrogen gas is used to evacuate vapors. Emissions from the gas sweeps account for almost half the emissions for large batches. In general, emissions from large batch manufacturing are around 8 times more than in a small batch.

PirnieAIR emission factors were determined using the weighted average of VOC and HAP content for each batch formulation. The formulation with the highest weighted VOC and HAP content (worst-case scenario) is used as the basis for calculating VOC and HAP emission factors. A worst-case scenario formulation was assigned to each of the following batch types: small batch solvent pigmented coatings, small batch solvent non-pigmented coatings, small batch waterborne coatings, large batch solvent pigmented coatings, large batch solvent non-pigmented coatings, large batch waterborne coatings, and color blending unit operations. The emission factor generated is multiplied by the total gallons produced in each type of batch.

PirnieAIR also estimates emissions for portable tank cleaning. Portable tanks are cleaned using a churn washer. Clean recycled solvent is sprayed into the portable tank. A rotating brush is lowered into the tank, sealing the opening and cleaning the inside of the tank. Spent solvent is collected in a waste solvent drum. Each cleanup uses approximately 5 gallons of clean solvent.

Waste solvent from manufacturing and tank cleaning is processed by Chemical Solvents, Inc. and sent back to AkzoNobel as recycled solvent to be reused for tank cleaning and other miscellaneous cleaning. Around 4,000 gallons of waste solvent per week is sent to Chemical Solvents, Inc. with a recovery rate of around 65%. Recycled solvent is stored in a 12,000-gallon tank at the tank farm.

## Compliance

**All records unless stated otherwise were collected digitally and can be located in: S:\Air Quality Division\STAFF\Mark Dziadosz\B4145 AkzoNobel FY24 Inspection**

**PTI No. 184-06**

### **EUPARTSWASHER**

**The special conditions of this section apply to a specialized solvent-based parts washer that AkzoNobel has not installed. Mr. Poniewierski stated that there are currently no plans to install a specialized parts washer at the facility. Because this washer is not currently installed, these special conditions do not currently apply.**

### **FGCLEANING**

**2.1 The permittee shall conduct cleaning of paint manufacturing and paint shipping containers using methods that minimize VOC emissions. Organic solvent is used for tank/equipment cleaning. Tanks are completely closed during cleaning cycles.**

**2.2 The permittee shall store wash solvent in closed containers. All solvents at the facility appeared to be stored in closed containers.**

**2.3 The permittee submitted to the AQD district supervisor, within 60 days of permit issuance, approvable work practice standards for portable tank cleaning. On October 23, 2006, AkzoNobel submitted the work practice standards for both the Hockenmeyer tank cleaner and the color blending unit tank cleaner. These cleaning procedures are still used today and can be found in the AkzoNobel AQD file.**

**2.4 The permittee shall equip all stationary and portable mixing tanks, and high-speed dispersion mills with covers that cover all openings except for what is needed to allow safe clearance for the mixing shaft. All of these tank types were covered during my inspection. Stainless steel covers are used in cases where the tank contains solvents. On clean tanks, sometimes a flexible plastic cover is used to prevent the introduction of dust.**

**2.5 The permittee shall keep monthly records of the number of portable tanks cleaned. These records are maintained in the Pirnie Air database. The highest reported monthly number of tanks cleaned was 306 tanks in October 2023. The most recently reported monthly total was 265 tanks in December 2023.**

**2.6 The permittee shall keep a record of the number of parts cleaners used at the facility. Mr. Poniewierski provided me with these records. There are 13 parts washers throughout the facility, 12 of which are in service. All**

parts washers utilize reclaimed solvent from the tote cleaning process. Parts washers had operating procedures posted; and the lids were closed.

**2.7** The permittee shall keep a written record of current emission factors used to calculate VOC and HAP emission rates in FGCLEANING. These records were made available to me during my inspection. The current emission factor is 1.5 lb VOC and 0.48 lb HAP per portable tank cleaned.

**2.8** The permittee shall keep monthly and 12-month rolling time period calculations of VOC and HAP emission rates from FGCLEANING. These records are maintained. Mr. Poniewierski provided me with the most recently calculated 12-month rolling period beginning in January 2023 and ending in December 2023. 3,070 portable tanks were cleaned during this period resulting in calculated VOC emissions of 2.3 tons and HAP emissions of 0.7 tons.

## **FGPAINT**

This flexible group includes all paint manufacturing operations including EULARGE BATCH, EUSMALL BATCH, and EUCBU (Color Blending Unit). Batches larger than 550 gallons are considered large batches. Batches less than or equal to 550 gallons are considered small batches. The color blending unit is used for batches less than or equal to 250 gallons.

In all three emission units, VOC emissions are vented directly to the atmosphere through conservation vents, exhaust systems, or dust collection systems. Particulate emissions from the addition of paint solids are controlled by dust collectors.

**3.1** PM emission limit from FGPAINT of 0.1 lbs/1,000 lbs exhaust gas. Compliance with this condition is verified through proper operation of the baghouses. The dust collectors in the main plant were not operating during this inspection because no material was being charged. The dust collectors appeared to be in good working order, and I did not observe any particulate scattered near any of them.

**3.2 (a-d)** 12-month rolling production material limits for the small batch, large batch, color blending unit, and waterborne paint manufacturing. Compliance with this condition is demonstrated through recordkeeping. Each time a batch is produced, the volume is entered into a database that tracks the total production volume. 12-month rolling records of production volumes from January 2022 to December 2022 were provided to me during my inspection. Based on the records I reviewed the production volume limits have not been exceeded (see table below for 12-month period ending in December 2023).

<b>Batch Type</b>	<b>12-month Rolling Production Volume (gallons)</b>	<b>Limit (gallons)</b>
<b>Small Batch</b>	<b>728,947</b>	<b>2,200,000</b>
<b>Large Batch</b>	<b>2,758,213</b>	<b>5,086,764</b>
<b>Waterborne</b>	<b>145,227</b>	<b>1,256,000</b>
<b>CBU</b>	<b>94,695</b>	<b>300,000</b>

**3.3 The permittee shall clean paint manufacturing and paint shipping containers using methods that minimize the emission of VOCs. Organic solvent is used for tank/equipment cleaning. Large tanks are completely closed during cleaning cycles and portables are open during cleaning (thus keep records of emissions) according to Mr. Poniewierski.**

**3.4 The permittee shall store wash solvent in closed containers. During my inspection, wash solvent appeared to be stored in closed drums.**

**3.5 All stationary mixing tanks, portable mixing tanks, and high-speed dispersion mills to be equipped with covers that cover all openings except openings that are no larger than necessary to allow safe clearance for the mixer shaft. All tanks were equipped with covers. There is a circular cutout in the middle of the metal covers that is just large enough for the mixer shaft.**

**3.6 The permittee shall not load solids into any equipment unless the associated dust collectors are installed, maintained, and operated in a satisfactory manner. Based on my inspection and record review the dust collectors are operated and maintained correctly. Dust collectors are only operated when charging (loading) tanks with solids. I did not notice any fugitive paint solids outside or in the plant.**

**3.7 The permittee shall replace all flexible plastic covers with tight fitting covers. Flexible plastic covers are still allowed and used on empty tanks. All tanks that contain materials are equipped with stainless steel, tight fitting, covers.**

**3.8 The permittee shall ensure that dust collectors DC-1, DC-2, WB, and prestage be equipped with a device to measure pressure drop on a**

**continuous basis. All dust collectors appeared to be equipped with a device to measure the pressure drop during my inspection.**

**3.9 The permittee shall keep monthly and 12-month rolling time period records of the gallons of each paint type produced. These records are maintained. Based on the records provided, there are no reported exceedances of production volumes.**

**3.10 The permittee shall keep weekly records of the pressure drop for the DC-1, DC-2, WB, and prestage dust collectors. These weekly records were provided.**

**3.11 The permittee shall keep a written record of emission factors used to calculate VOC and HAP emission rates from FGPAINT. These records are maintained in the Pirnie Air database and were made available during my previous inspections. These factors are also maintained in the EGLE-AQD AkzoNobel facility file.**

**3.12 The permittee shall keep monthly and 12-month rolling time period calculations of VOC and HAP emission rates for FGPAINT. These records are maintained as part of the Pirnie Air database. Based on the records provided, AkzoNobel has not exceeded permit or major source thresholds.**

**3.13(a-h) Stack dimensions were not verified during inspection as no changes have been made since installation. Stacks observed during inspection appeared to meet permit requirements.**

## **FGFACILITY**

**4.1 (a- c) Establishes facility-wide emission limits for VOC, individual HAP, and total HAP emissions of 60 tons/year, 9 tons/year, and 22.5 tons/year, respectively. AkzoNobel appears to be under these emission limits. Facility-wide emissions for the 12-month rolling period ending in December 2023 are reported at 8.09 tons of VOCs and 2.6 tons of total HAPs.**

**4.2 The permittee shall keep a written record of the current emission factors used to calculate VOC and HAP emission rates. These records are maintained as part of the Pirnie Air database. Based on the records provided, AkzoNobel has not exceeded permit or major source thresholds.**

**4.3 The permittee shall keep monthly and 12-month rolling time period calculations of VOC and HAP emission rates for FGFACILITY. These records are maintained as part of the Pirnie Air database. Based on the records provided, AkzoNobel has not exceeded permit or major source thresholds.**

## **Emergency Generator**

**AkzoNobel has a Kohler 100RZG natural gas fired emergency generator with a maximum power rating of 121 kW (162 hp) on-site. The unit was installed on-site in December 2006. The purchase order for this unit was also made in December 2006. AQD considers the date the purchase order was made to be the date that AkzoNobel “commenced construction” of the emergency generator. This generator has been disconnected and is no longer in service.**

### **Laboratory Operations**

**Akzonobel operates a pilot laboratory where small batches of new formulations are tested before going into full-scale production. Emissions from the pilot lab are estimated using the PirnieAir small batch emission factor and are included in the small batch emissions.**

**In addition to the pilot laboratory, there is a research and development laboratory where paint/coatings are tested for various parameters. There are three spray booths in this lab that are used to spray small rectangular panels for testing purposes. All three booths are exhausted outdoors and are equipped with dry filters. I did not observe any gaps in the dry filters. These booths are not used for production. Only a small amount of paint is used. The laboratory sprays approximately 900 small sample panels per month. Mr. Poniewierski stated in an email that most applications take the full amount of material mixed for sprayout which is 180 grams (100 grams paint, 50 grams hardener, 30 grams reducer) of paint. Approximately 360 pounds or 45 gallons of material is sprayed per month. These paint booths appear to be exempt from Rule 201 requirements pursuant to Rule 287 (2) (c). Emissions from the research and development laboratory operations are tracked and included in the facility wide emissions (FGFACILITY).**

**Recycled wash solvent and then Acetone is used for a final paint gun cleaning and washing solvent cans. About 40 gallons of acetone is ordered for laboratory operations each month. Of these 40 gallons, around 90% is used to wash solvent cans. The other 10% is used to wash paint guns.**

**There are 8 storage tanks at the tank farm used to store raw batch materials. A vapor balance system is installed to capture emissions during filling. These tanks appear to be exempt from Rule 201 requirements pursuant to Rule 284 (2)(i).**

### **Permit to Install No. 165-19**

**Permit to install No. 165-19 was issued on March 13, 2020, for equipment to prepare specialty marine and protective coatings, consisting of ten mixing stations and related equipment, a container filling area, and a shared baghouse dust collector.**

### **FG-Marine**

**I.1 Limits particulate matter (PM) emissions to 0.20 lb per ton of solids charged. Compliance with this emission limit is demonstrated by monitoring and recording the pressure drop across the dust collector, DC-Marine, once each week. DC-Marine is named DCOL-07 49 Brush internally by AkzoNobel. Based on the records provided, pressure drop is monitored on DC-Marine.**

**1.2 Limits VOC emissions to 5.9 tons per year based on a 12-month rolling time period. AkzoNobel maintains a spreadsheet that shows each batch processed, the amount of VOC in that batch, and the resulting VOC emissions based on the emission factors established in this permit to install. The rolling 12-month VOC for the period ending in December 2023 was 0.14 tons.**

**II.1 Limits the amount of coatings produced to 3,000,000 gallons per year. Records from January 2023 through December 2023 show a total of 149,048 gallons produced.**

**II.2 Limits the VOC content of batches to 3,600 lbs per batch. AkzoNobel calculates and records the VOC content of each batch. Records from January 2023 to December 2023 shows 249,118 total batch VOC emissions from a total of 647 batches. This is approximately 385 lbs per batch.**

**II.3 Limits the VOC content of every 10 batches processed concurrently to 17,938 per production cycle. The facility has not ever produced 10 batches concurrently, nor do they anticipate the need for that high of production. According to Jeff, this condition was added as a permit condition because AkzoNobel was unsure of the capacity they would need, and they wanted their permit issued quickly. Based on process restrictions (number of process tanks-8) it is not possible to process 10 batches concurrently. Based on the records, it does not appear more than 10 batches have been made on any day.**

**II.4-38 Material usage limits for 35 different air toxics. Not all 35 toxics have been used since operations began. Mr. Poniewierski believes that some of these compounds may never be used at this location. Each air toxic has a compound specific material use limit and a specific averaging time. Since operations began in April 2020, the following air toxics have been used: Styrene (100-42-5), Benzene (71-43-2), Cumene (98-82-8), Chlorinated paraffins (63449-39-8), Siloxanes and silicones (67762-90-7), Chromium (7440-47-3), Nickel (7440-02-0), Arsenic (7440-38-2), and Cadmium (7440-43-9). Currently the facility is using the following air toxics: styrene, benzene, cumene, siloxanes and silicones, nickel, arsenic, cadmium, and chromium. Averaging times range from 1 hour, 8 hours, to 12-month rolling limits. AkzoNobel instead elects to impose batch volume limitations that if they maintain they will be within the averaging time limits. Batch volume data**



was provided. Mr. Poniewierski described in an email how the facility meets compliance with the material limits:

**“We do not track each individual batch and quantity. Instead, we set up batch size limits in our production system to ensure we do not go above the material limits for an 8-hour run. We do not schedule multiple batches of one product as our equipment will not allow it. So, the critical part is ensuring we do not go above the 8-hour limit.”**

Maximum batch volume and whether or not the specific batch exceeded the volume are found in the same spread sheet as the batch information. The facility is considered in compliance with the material limits.

**IV.1 Permittee must equip all stationary and portable mixing tanks, and high-speed dispersion mills with covers that cover all openings except for what is needed to allow safe clearance for the mixing shaft. These tank types were covered during my inspection. Stainless steel covers are used in cases where the tank contains solvents. On clean tanks, sometimes a flexible plastic cover is used to prevent the introduction of dust. The facility is switching to a new cover.**

**IV.2 The permittee shall not charge solids to any equipment in FG-Marine unless the dust collector is installed, maintained, and operated in a satisfactory manner. There did not appear to be any particulate around the dust collector and the facility provided pressure records. The dust collector was not operating at the time of inspection.**

**IV.3 The permittee shall equip the dust collector with a device to indicate the pressure drop across the dust collector. I confirmed during the inspection DC-Marine is equipped with a pressure gauge.**

**VI.1-7 The facility provided the required records except for SC 6. The facility has not ever produced 10 batches concurrently, nor do they anticipate the need for that high of production. According to Jeff, this condition was added as a permit condition because AkzoNobel was unsure of the capacity they would need, and they wanted their permit issued quickly. Based on process restrictions (number of process tanks-8) it is not possible to process 10 batches concurrently.**

**VI.8 (a-ee) The permittee shall maintain records, in each batch, of the maximum concentration by weight of 31 different materials. Currently the facility is using the following air toxics that are on the list: styrene, benzene, cumene, siloxanes and silicones, nickel, arsenic, cadmium, and chromium. These records are maintained. AkzoNobel maintains a spreadsheet for each air toxic. In these spreadsheets, each air toxic is broken down into every possible formulation that air toxic is used in. The**

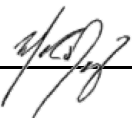
maximum concentration of each air toxic is listed next to the corresponding coating formulation.

**VI.9 (a-ii) Specifies recordkeeping requirements for 35 different air toxics. Each toxic has its own specific averaging time. Averaging times range from 1 hour, 8 hours, to 12-month rolling limits. AkzoNobel instead elects to impose batch volume limitations that if they maintain they will be within the averaging time limits. Batch volume data was provided.**

**VIII Specifies required stack dimensions. I did not verify stack dimensions during this inspection. Stacks appeared to be discharged unobstructed vertically upwards to the ambient air.**

### **Conclusion**

**Based on the information gathered during the inspection, AkzoNobel appears to be in compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act Part 55, Air Pollution Control, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act of 1994, PA 451, as amended, and PTI Nos. 165-19 and 184-06.**

NAME  DATE 03/18/2024 SUPERVISOR 