

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

N045757689

<b>FACILITY:</b> American Thermoforming Machinery		<b>SRN / ID:</b> N0457
<b>LOCATION:</b> 2525 E GRIFFIN RD, WEST BRANCH		<b>DISTRICT:</b> Bay City
<b>CITY:</b> WEST BRANCH		<b>COUNTY:</b> OGEMAW
<b>CONTACT:</b> Danny Blasch , President		<b>ACTIVITY DATE:</b> 04/14/2021
<b>STAFF:</b> Nathanael Gentle	<b>COMPLIANCE STATUS:</b> Compliance	<b>SOURCE CLASS:</b> MINOR
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Scheduled On-site Inspection		
<b>RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:</b>		

On April 14, 2021, AQD staff conducted a scheduled onsite inspection at American Thermoforming Machinery (ATM). Staff arrived onsite at 9:50 AM and departed at 10:40 AM. The purpose of the inspection was to determine compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act; Article II, Part 55, Air Pollution Control of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 Public Act 451; Michigan Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy, Air Quality Division (AQD) Administrative Rules; and to ensure no processes at the facility require a Permit to Install (PTI) be obtained. AQD staff were assisted by Mr. Danny Blasch, President of American Thermoforming Machinery, Inc.

**Facility Description:**

ATM is located within a small industrial park at 2525 Griffin Road West Branch, MI 48661. The facility designs and manufactures custom cut sheet vacuum thermoforming machines and tooling and provides machinery rebuilding and control upgrade services. ATM began in 2009. At that time, it was located only in the south end of the rented building in which it is located. As the business grew, the company expanded into the north portion of the building in 2011 and eventually occupying the entire building beginning in 2014.

No permitted equipment is associated with the site. In the past, one permit, PTI No. 345-82, was associated with the location. The permit was issued to GAO Precision, a company that previously occupied the space. The permit was for a paint spray booth and was voided in April 2005. The stack for the old paint booth can still be seen on the exterior of the facility. Mr. Blasch reported that the room that once contained the paint booth is now used for storage by the building owner and he did not have access to the space.

No complaints or notices of violation are on record for the facility.

**Facility Operations and Emission Sources: Compliant**

ATM manufactures made to order thermoforming machines. At the time of inspection, the facility was finishing up a machine that will be used in the production of walls for portable restrooms. A variety of steps make up the manufacturing process of thermoforming machines including, cutting, and machining of steel, welding, manufacturing clamp frames, painting/coating, and assembly of the final product using parts manufactured in house, as well as ordered. Once an order is finished and tested, it is disassembled, shipped to the buyer's location, and reassembled.

All equipment used to cut and machine steel was vented to the in-plant environment. No control or collection devices were observed. The equipment appeared to meet exemption R 336.1285 (2) (I)(vi).

Equipment used for welding materials together appeared to be exempt under R 336.1285 (2)(i).

As part of onsite operations, ATM makes clamp frames. The frames are designed to hold plastic sheets in place while they are heated and vacuum pressed. Parts for the clamp frames are machined using a CNC lathe and a CNC mill. Both units did not have external emissions and appeared to be exempt under R 336.1285 (2)(l)(vi).

The facility conducts coating and painting of products using both aerosol spray cans and application by hand. Paint is purchased by the gallon from Sherman Williams as needed for job orders. Purchase receipts of all paint purchased in 2020 were provided as documentation of paint usage records. For the entire year of 2020, 17 gallons of paint were purchased, well below the monthly limit of 200 gallons per month minus water. Brush marks could be seen on portions of the thermoforming machine the facility was in the process of finishing, supporting that paint is applied by hand. Based on onsite observations and provided records, the facility appears to meet exemptions R 336.1287 (2)(b) and/or (c). The purchase receipts provided were deemed to be sufficient records being the paint usage was well below 200 gallons for the year 2020. It was recommended moving forward that the facility keeps monthly coating records.

**Summary:**

American Thermoforming Machinery (ATM) designs and manufactures custom cut sheet vacuum thermoforming machines and tooling and provides machinery rebuilding and control upgrade services. At the time of the April 14, 2021 inspection, ATM appeared to be in compliance. Onsite processes and equipment observed during the inspection appear to all meet one or more of Michigan's PTI exemption rules and therefore no Permit to Install from the State of Michigan, AQD is required at this time.

NAME

*Nathanael Gento*

DATE 4/15/2021

SUPERVISOR

*Chris Hare*