

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

U11220608765709

<b>FACILITY:</b> Custometal Products		<b>SRN / ID:</b> U112206087
<b>LOCATION:</b> 9890 Red Arrow Highway, Bridgman		<b>DISTRICT:</b> Kalamazoo
<b>CITY:</b> Bridgman		<b>COUNTY:</b> BERRIEN
<b>CONTACT:</b> Rich Slavicek , Plant Manager		<b>ACTIVITY DATE:</b> 12/08/2022
<b>STAFF:</b> Matthew Deskins	<b>COMPLIANCE STATUS:</b> Compliance	<b>SOURCE CLASS:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Unannounced Scheduled Inspection		
<b>RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:</b>		

On December 8, 2022 AQD staff (Matt Deskins) went to conduct an unannounced scheduled inspection of the Custometal Products (N2632) facility located in St. Joseph, Berrien County. Custometal Products is a sheet metal fabrication business that had previously had a Permit to Install (PTI No. 893-90A) that was issued to them by the AQD for a spray paint booth. After staff's previous inspection in 2007, the facility voided out that permit since their painting / coating usage was well below the 200 gallons allowed by the AQD Permit Exemption Rule 287(c). The purpose of the inspection was to determine if the facility is still meeting all AQD permit exemptions including for any painting / coatings being applied. Staff departed for the facility after inspecting another facility nearby and having lunch.

Staff arrived at the facility at approximately 1:00 p.m. Staff pulled into a parking area near the entry door and noted a sign on it. The sign indicated that the facility had moved to Bridgman and staff proceeded to call a contact number on the sign. The person (Jeff) that answered the phone indicated that there were no longer any Custometal operations at that location and they had or are in the process of moving all equipment to 9890 Red Arrow Highway, Bridgman, Berrien County. After talking with Jeff, staff proceeded to call their supervisor to explain the situation. After talking to their supervisor, the decision was made to proceed to the new location and inspect them as an unregistered facility at that location. Staff then departed for Bridgman.

**NOTE:** Staff later entered into MACES that the facility at the previous location is now "Permanently Closed". Staff then entered the new information into MACES and it was assigned an Unregistered Facility I.D. of U112206087.

Staff arrived at the new location at approximately 1:25 p.m. Staff observed the roof of the new building but did not observe and type of stacks indicating any type of painting or other operations that are being exhausted outside. Staff then proceeded to the entry door. The door was locked and staff proceeded to ring a buzzer. An employee then came and opened the door where staff introduced them self. The employee then led staff out to the production area where the office of Rich Slavicek was located. Rich wasn't in his office so the employee proceeded to go find him. A few minutes later Rich came in and staff introduced them self. Staff then mentioned that it may be hard to believe, but Rich was whom staff had met with during their previous inspection at the other location 15 years ago. Rich mentioned that staff's name sounded familiar to him and thought that staff had assisted them in voiding out their air permit if he recalls. Staff mentioned that was correct and that the facility was targeted for inspection this year to verify facility operations and to make sure they are still meeting any and all of the AQD permit exemptions. Staff then began to

ask Rich some general questions about facility operations and the following is a summary of that discussion.

According to Rich, Custometal Products was bought by Oronoko Iron Works and had just relocated to the new location earlier this Spring, with the move being final in June of 2022. The facility still does sheet metal fabrication and the plant currently has 9 employees with 3 of them being office personnel and the other 6 production. They operate only one shift, 8 hours per day, five days a week from 7:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. He said that they are strictly a job shop now and Gast Manufacturing is their most consistent customer. He said that they fabricate about 40 different products for Gast with some being air tanks for air breaks on semis, shrouds, guards, etc. Staff then asked if they do any painting and if they had brought the paint booth with them when they relocated. Rich said that all painting is contracted out and they had sold the paint booth and all painting equipment prior to relocating. About this time, Rusty Riley came into the office. Rusty is the owner of Oronoko Iron Works who had purchased Custometal as mentioned previously. Staff introduced them self to Rusty and explained why staff was there. After a little bit of conversation, Rusty departed and staff proceeded again with Rich on the inspection. Staff then asked Rich what equipment the facility currently had and the following is what staff was told.

**Facility Equipment:**

- (4) Mig Welders and (2) Tig Welders**
- (2) Bridgeport Mills**
- (2) CNC Turret Presses**
- (1) Small Plasma Cutting Table**
- (4) Break Presses (for Metal Forming / Bending)**
- (2) Cut-Off Saws**
- (1) Laser Cutter (This one had just arrived and hasn't been installed yet)**

Staff then proceeded with Rich out to the production area where they verified the above equipment was present and no painting nor paint booths were observed. All of the above equipment exhausts inside and appears to meet the various metal processing and/or cutting exemptions allowed under the AQD Rule 336.1285 (Rule 285) "Miscellaneous Equipment". Staff did not feel it was necessary to request a Potential to Emit (PTE) due to the size of the operations. The building is a lot smaller in scope than where they were previously. Staff thanked Rich for his time and departed the facility at approximately 2:10 p.m.

**Inspection Summary:** The facility appears to be in COMPLIANCE with AQD Regulations at the present time. Unless the facility should expand in some way and add a lot more additional equipment, the equipment currently in place appears to

meet the various Metal Processing Permit Exemptions allowed under the AQD Rule 285.

NAME     Matt Deskins    

DATE     12-12-22    

SUPERVISOR     *BDL*         12/13/22