

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AIR QUALITY DIVISION
ACTIVITY REPORT: Self Initiated Inspection**

U33190073847560

FACILITY: Sohn Linen Service		SRN / ID: U331900738
LOCATION: 2900 E Grand River Avenue, Lansing		DISTRICT: Lansing
CITY: Lansing		COUNTY: INGHAM
CONTACT: Rick Lange , Plant Manager		ACTIVITY DATE: 01/10/2019
STAFF: Michelle Luplow	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS:
SUBJECT: Self-initiated compliance inspection to determine whether Sohn Linen Service launders shop towels and/or print towels that would contribute to VOC emissions.		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

Inspected by: Michelle Luplow (author) and Candra Wilcox (DEQ Admin)

Personnel Present: Rick Lange, Plant Manager (ricklange@sohnlinden.com)

Purpose

Conduct an unannounced, self-initiated compliance inspection of Sohn Linen Service, as the result of a state-wide initiative to inspect commercial laundry facilities in FY19.

The AQD is learning that certain commercial laundry facilities wash oily and/or solvent-laden shop towels (used to clean mechanical equipment, parts, and devices) and/or print towels (used to clean printing or graphic arts equipment). Facilities that wash these items have been found by the EPA to emit VOC's when washing and drying these types of fabrics.

Inspection

At approximately 8:15 a.m. on January 10, 2019, Candra Wilcox and I arrived at the Sohn Linen Service (Sohn), 2401 Wood St location, where we learned that this location is strictly used as a warehouse for clean linens. Facility staff pointed us in the direction of the laundering facility, which is located at 2900 E. Grand River in Lansing.

At approximately 8:40 a.m. on January 10, 2019, Candra Wilcox and I arrived at Sohn Linen Service laundering facility, 2900 E. Grand River. We met with an HR representative who put us into contact with the plant manager, Rick Lange. I explained to R. Lange that the AQD has a state-wide initiative to conduct inspections at commercial laundering facilities to determine if they are laundering solvent-laden rags, and in turn, determine VOC emissions. I provided him with a January 2017 Permit to Install Exemptions Handbook.

R. Lange said they own, launder, and press linens, such as tablecloths, napkins, surgical hospital bedding, restaurant and grocery floor mats, and restaurant aprons/coats, which they rent to these industries for use. Contracts are set up with these entities to use Sohn's linens and to return these linens to Sohn to be washed; however, R. Lange said Sohn used to launder oily mechanic shop towels and print towels approximately 15 years ago at this location. At that time, Sohn had decided to discontinue laundering these types of items because the wash residual from these items tended to plug their sewer drains. He also stated that the Lansing Board of Water and Light conducts regular checks on their water discharge.

R. Lange said that instead of offering contracts to provide laundered shop towels to companies, they sell them paper towels.

R. Lange gave us a tour of the facility. We observed multiple linen presses, 5 900-lb washers, and 1 tunnel washer (which can process 130 – 150lbs), in addition to other washing equipment. Throughout the inspection I did not observe any oily or greasy rags in the dirty linens bags, nor did I see any rags being processed in the pressing operations.

I reviewed electronic copies of the SDS for their laundering chemicals (Gurtler Products: Power Jolt, Power Drive, NDT Neutra-Clor, NDT Sour Plus, and NDT Softener). There appear to be no PFAS- or VOC-containing components in these chemicals.

Sohn has two Johnston 300 hp natural gas-fired boilers that are used to create steam for their iron presses. Rule 282(2)(b)(i) exempts equipment that burns natural gas, at a maximum rated heat input of 50,000,000 Btu/hr or less and is used for indirect heating. These units meet this exemption, as 300 hp is equivalent to less than 1,000,000 Btu/hr.

During the inspection (inside and outside the facility) I did not detect any odors that would be classified as VOC, oil, grease, or other petroleum-based products. There are several stacks on the building which R. Lange said are used for venting of the dryers.

Compliance Statement

At this time, it is my professional judgment that Sohn Linen Service does not have VOC emissions associated with the laundering of shop and print towels. It did not appear, based on my observations, that they were laundering shop or print towels at this location. Sohn appears to be in compliance.

NAME *M. M. Lynn*

DATE *1/16/19*

SUPERVISOR *B. M.*