

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

U80240444673483

FACILITY: East Jordan Plastics		SRN / ID: U802404446
LOCATION: 1600 Stieve Dr, South Haven		DISTRICT: Kalamazoo
CITY: South Haven		COUNTY: VAN BUREN
CONTACT: Annette Jaske , Safety and Quality Manager		ACTIVITY DATE: 07/29/2024
STAFF: Mariah Scott	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS:
SUBJECT: On July 29, 2024, Air Quality Division staff conducted an unannounced air quality inspection of the East Jordan Plastics (U802404446) facility in response to an anonymous complaint by a resident.		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

On July 29, 2024, Air Quality Division (AQD) staff (Mariah Scott, hereafter Staff) conducted an unannounced air quality inspection of the East Jordan Plastics (U802404446) 1600 Stieve Dr, South Haven facility. This inspection was in response to an anonymous complaint of a plastic scented mist from their stack repeatedly falling onto a nearby bike path. Staff arrived at 9:45 am, made initial contact with Annette Jaske, and stated the purpose of the visit. In the facility driveway of East Jordan Plastics, no odors were detected. The weather was a humid, slightly cloudy day, around 75°F, with a slight breeze. During the inspection, Staff observed no visible emissions. During the inspection, Staff were accommodated by Annette Jaske, the Quality Manager for Corporate, and Shawn DeYoung, of Maintenance and Engineering. Staff observed the emission units and pollution control equipment at the facility as part of the onsite inspection.

East Jordan Plastics is a facility that recycles greenhouse plastics into new plastic plant containers. The facility does plastic molding and thermal framing. The facility has an estimated 100 staff, operating 2, twelve hour shifts a day for 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

The walk-through inspection required safety glasses and ear protection. Staff observations, information stated by East Jordan Plastics, and review of the records provided by East Jordan Plastics during and following the inspection are summarized below:

Staff asked and East Jordan Plastics stated that the facility does not have a boiler or emergency generator. The facility has a cold cleaner that uses mineral spirits (MSDS provided and unit appears to be exempt under Rule 281(2)(h)). The lid was closed during inspection. The mineral spirits are not heated nor agitated as part of the parts cleaning process. The length and width of parts cleaner lid is 23.5" x 42.5." Labels were given by Staff during the inspection and a photograph of their installation were provided. East Jordan Plastics does not have a permit with AQD and there is no record of a previous inspection.

Exempt Emission Units

The facility takes scrap plastic from horticultural sources, mainly greenhouses.

The four silos at the front of the facility hold plastic pellets used in making plastic products.

There are six general rooftop vents for air flow, not including the four vents for specific machines and a stack for the cooling tower.

Non-permitted, exempt equipment at the facility consisted of

- There are an assortment of grinding machines, which appear to be exempt under the Rule 285(2)(l)(vi)(B) exemption. These machines shred scrap plastic into small pieces. There are no roof vents/stacks in this area or on these machines. Equipment vents into the facility and out sidewall ducting into dust collector.
The two wet grinders use a water bath in a closed loop, isolated system. The facility explained this water is filtered and replaced every three months, with the waste water taken by an outside company. The plastic shredder and shaker includes a series of washers, grinders, and shakers. This unit operates with a mechanical dryer that heats the material to around 110°F.
The two dry grinders grind dry plastic materials of various sizes.
- Extruder machine melts scrap plastic into a thin cylinder. Then two pelletizers, cut the plastic from the extruder into pellet form. Only one of the pelletizer machines runs with a dryer. Pellets are in a water bath for this closed loop system, where the water bath is limited to this machine. Both the pelletizer machines have a vent on the roof for heat and steam. These machines appear to be exempt under the Rule 286(2)(a) exemption.
- Twelve injection molding machines melt polypropylene plastic pellets into products at around 480°F. They appear to be exempt under the Rule 286(2)(b) exemption. The water cooling system in these machines are a closed loop system, that does not exchange water with the cooling system.
- Two thermal form machines melt plastic pellets into thin sheets of plastic at around 400°F, which are then shaped using vacuum and air pressure. They appear to be exempt under the Rule 286(2)(b) exemption. Both these machines have a direct vent to the roof. The water cooling system in these machines are a closed loop system, that does not exchange water with the cooling system.

- Evaporative cooling tower, which appears to be exempt under the Rule 280(2)(d) exemption. The cooling tower has a dedicated stack. The water used in this machine is a closed loop of non-process water.

The facility explained that the water mist from the cooling tower stack is part of a closed loop system, where the water in the cooling tower does not contact the water that processes the plastic or cools the machines. The evaporative cooling tower had calcified and clogged parts. The week of June 24th they replaced the baffles, which increased the air flow and removed more water. The older drift eliminators were not replaced at this time. This partial repair resulted in the mist that the complainant mentioned. By the time of the inspection, the facility said they had already ordered the final replacement parts. An August 26th email from the facility updated that the new drift eliminators were installed on August 9th and the mist/drift across the yard appeared to have been eliminated and the ground was dry.

At the time of the inspection and based on a review of records obtained during or following the inspection, the facility appears in compliance, with no equipment requiring a permit. Staff left the facility at 11 am. -MWS

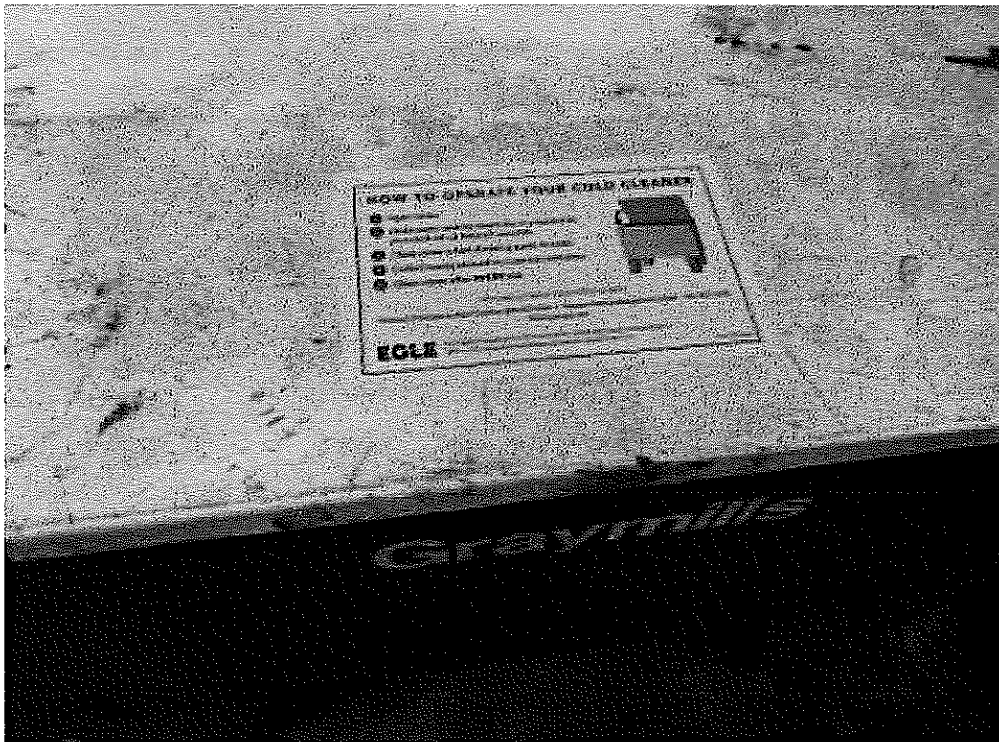


Image 1(Cold Cleaner Label 1) : Photo of added cold cleaner label to the top of the lid.



Image 2(Cold Cleaner Label 2) : Photo of added cold cleaner label to the inside of the lid.

NAME 
Mariah Scott

DATE September 11, SUPERVISOR 
2024