



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604**

**DATE:** *August 13, 2021*

**SUBJECT:** CLEAN AIR ACT INSPECTION REPORT  
Skolnik Industries, Inc., Chicago, Illinois

**FROM:** Victoria Nelson, Environmental Engineer  
AECAB (MI/WI)

**THRU:** Sarah Marshall, Section Chief  
AECAB (MI/WI)

**TO:** File

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**BASIC INFORMATION**

**Facility Name:** Skolnik Industries, Inc. (Skolnik)

**Facility Location:** 4900, 4950 South Kilbourn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

**Date of Inspection:** June 24, 2021

**EPA Inspectors:**

1. Victoria Nelson, Environmental Engineer
2. Emma Leeds, Environmental Scientist

**Other Attendees:**

1. W. Dean Ricker, President, Skolnik
2. Andrew Handa, Vice President of Operations, Skolnik
3. Stephanie Bravo, Environmental Health and Safety Manager, Skolnik

**Contact Email Address:** Andrew Handa, [Andrew@skolnik.com](mailto:Andrew@skolnik.com)

**Purpose of Inspection:** To evaluate compliance with the facility's operation permit and any applicable rules

**Facility Type:** Metal container coating operation

**Arrival Time:** 9:20 AM, CDT

**Facility Name:** Skolnik Industries, Inc.

**Facility Location:** 4900, 4950 S Kilbourn Ave, Chicago, Illinois

**Date of Inspection:** June 24, 2021

**Departure Time:** 11:15 AM, CDT

**Inspection Type:**

- Unannounced Inspection
- Announced Inspection

**OPENING CONFERENCE**

- Presented Credentials
- Stated authority and purpose of inspection
- Provided Small Business Resource Information Sheet
- Small Business Resource Information Sheet not provided. Reason: provided following the inspection on August 11, 2021
- Provided CBI warning to facility

The following information was obtained verbally from the attendees unless otherwise noted.

**Process Description:**

Skolnik assembles and coats carbon steel and stainless-steel drums for industrial applications, including hazardous waste disposal. The drum forms and lids are stamped from sheets of carbon and stainless-steel. Hooping and flanging of forms are additional steps in the drum assembly process. Once container forms are stamped out, the form seam is welded together and then the form is cleaned. Carbon steel container forms are then passed through a series of paint booths to receive interior and exterior coatings according to batch specifications. Stainless steel drums do not receive an interior or exterior coating. After the initial cleaning, an anti-rust coating is applied and then the forms are dried in ovens. Next a second interior coating is applied as needed and then oven dried. Interior coatings can be epoxy phenolic coatings and clear or colored, and may contain hazardous air pollutants (HAP), including formaldehyde. Once the interior coating is dried, the container is outfitted with lids at the top and bottom of the form. Exterior coatings are next applied according to specification and consist of water-based paints. A second exterior coating can be applied. There are seven paint booths at the facility for coating operations.

**Staff Interview:**

Skolnik has 94 full-time employees and runs five days of the week from 6 AM to 2:30 PM. Typically, Skolnik produces 1,200 drums each day of sizes varying from 3 to 110 gallons. The facility can produce up to 300,000 drums each year. Skolnik can increase production if it runs the facility over the weekend. In 2020, Skolnik added stainless steel container assembly operations in the 4950 S Kilbourne Ave building.

**TOUR INFORMATION**

**EPA Tour of the Facility:** Yes

**Data Collected and Observations:**

**Facility Name:** Skolnik Industries, Inc.

**Facility Location:** 4900, 4950 S Kilbourn Ave, Chicago, Illinois

**Date of Inspection:** June 24, 2021

EPA inspectors walked through the assembly and metal container coating operations in both the 4900 and 4950 S Kilbourn Ave buildings.

**Photos and/or Videos:** were not taken during the inspection.

EPA screened for hydrocarbon emissions during the inspection using a FLIR Gas Finder Camera. No videos were recorded with the FLIR and no photos were taken.

**Field Measurements:** were not taken during this inspection.

### CLOSING CONFERENCE

Provided U.S. EPA point of contact to the facility

### **Requested documents:**

- Safety Data Sheets for coatings containing HAP
- Safety Data Sheet for rust prevention coating
- Safety Data Sheet for drum cleaning solution
- 2020 Purchase records for HAP-containing coatings

### SIGNATURES

X Nelson,  
Victoria

Digitally signed by  
Nelson, Victoria  
Date: 2021.08.13  
08:26:15 -05'00'

Victoria Nelson  
Report Author

X SARAH  
MARSHALL

Digitally signed by  
SARAH MARSHALL  
Date: 2021.08.13  
07:11:20 -05'00'

Sarah Marshall  
Section Chief