



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

SUBJECT: CLEAN AIR ACT INSPECTION REPORT
Superior Metal Finishing, Detroit, Michigan

FROM: Natalia Vazquez, Environmental Engineer
AECAB (MI/WI)

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

TO: File

BASIC INFORMATION

Facility Name: Superior Metal Finishing

Facility Location: 3510 East McNichols Road, Detroit, Michigan 48212

Date of Inspection: 8/17/2022

EPA Inspector(s):

1. Natalia Vazquez, Environmental Engineer
2. Brittany Cobb, Environmental Engineer

Other Attendees:

1. Daniel Smith, Operational Manager - Superior Metal Finishing
2. Frank Ayar, Owner - Superior Metal Finishing

Contact Email Address: robinp@smfdetroit.com, christiana@smfdetroit.com

Purpose of Inspection: Determine compliance with the Clean Air Act

Facility Type: Zinc and phosphate electroplating facility

Regulations Central to Inspection: Clean Air Act

Arrival Time: 8:00 a.m.

Departure Time: 9:30 a.m.

Inspection Type:

- ☒ Unannounced Inspection
- ☐ Announced Inspection

OPENING CONFERENCE

- ☒ Presented Credentials
- ☒ Stated authority and purpose of inspection
- ☒ Provided Small Business Resource Information Sheet
- ☒ Provided CBI warning to facility

The following information was obtained verbally from Daniel Smith and Frank Ayar unless otherwise noted.

Process Description:

The facility cleans and rinses cold rolled steel. The rolls are electroplated rinsed and dried. The facility has one phosphate electroplating line and two zinc electroplating lines. The lines have tanks that contain sulfuric acid, caustic cleaner, potassium chloride, ammonium chloride, sodium chloride, and hydrochloric acid. The zinc electroplating lines also have electroless trivalent chromium plating. The phosphate line processes 20,000 – 25,000 pounds of metal parts per day. The zinc electroplating lines processes 20,000 – 25,000 pounds of metal parts per day. All three electroplating lines exhaust to atmosphere and are uncontrolled.

Staff Interview:

- The facility has approximately nine employees. One shift five days a week. Hours of operation are from 5:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The facility operates Saturdays if needed, although this doesn't happen often.
- 80 percent of its customers are in the automobile industry.
- No CBI was collected during the inspection. The facility claimed as confidential its customer part products, but no information on customer parts was collected during the inspection.
- The electroplating lines are not covered. The facility monitors the temperature and level in the electroplating tanks.
- Any spills from the electroplating lines are contained in a containment pit and is transferred to the water treatment system owned by the facility.
- The facility doesn't use wetting agents. The facility does not do blasting, polishing and sanding operations.

TOUR INFORMATION

EPA Tour of the Facility: Yes

Data Collected and Observations:

- EPA observed the second phosphate line was not in use and observed the gas-fired drier. EPA also observed a SDS for Rustguard 1226 that is applied to metals after they are plated.

Photos and/or Videos: were taken during the inspection.

Field Measurements: were not taken during this inspection.

CLOSING CONFERENCE

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

Requested documents:

1. Safety data sheets for the oil, zinc-containing substances and chromium-containing substances. Also, if the facility uses a wetting agent or any substance that contains cadmium, nickel, lead, or manganese provide the safety data sheets for these substances.

DIGITAL SIGNATURES

Report Author: **NATALIA VAZQUEZ RIVERA**
Digitally signed by NATALIA VAZQUEZ RIVERA
Date: 2022.09.06 09:40:18 -05'00'

Section Supervisor: **SARAH MARSHALL**
Digitally signed by SARAH MARSHALL
Date: 2022.09.07 14:12:15 -05'00'

Facility Name: Superior Metal Finishing

Facility Location: 3510 East McNichols Road, Detroit, Michigan 48212

Date of Inspection: August 17, 2022

APPENDICES AND ATTACHMENTS

1. Appendix A Digital Image Log

Facility Name: Superior Metal Finishing
Facility Location: 3510 East McNichols Road, Detroit, Michigan 48212
Date of Inspection: August 17, 2022

APPENDIX A: DIGITAL IMAGE LOG

1. Inspector Name: Natalia Vazquez	2. Archival Record Location: OneDrive and ERC
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Image Number	File Name	Date and Time (Eastern Standard Time)	Latitude and Longitude	Description of Image
1	IMG_0169.JPG	2022:08:17 09:09:28		Ventilation system (gray equipment) for phosphate electroplating line
2	IMG_0170.JPG	2022:08:17 09:16:32		Zinc electroplating line (second line/line at the back of the building)
3	IMG_0171.JPG	2022:08:17 09:16:46		Fan in the room with the Zinc electroplating line
4	IMG_0172.JPG	2022:08:17 09:17:35		Dryer
5	IMG_0173.JPG	2022:08:17 09:18:20		Ventilation system for the heating cleaning line in zinc electroplating line
6	IMG_0174.JPG	2022:08:17 09:18:23		Ventilation system for the heating cleaning line in zinc electroplating line (same picture as before)
7	IMG_0175.JPG	2022:08:17 09:19:54		Ventilation system for the heated cleaning vessel in the zinc electroplating line