



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Northeast District Office

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Ted Strickland, Governor  
Lee Fisher, Lieutenant Governor  
Chris Korleski, Director

April 23, 2007

RE: **SEMPER QUALITY INDUSTRIES**  
**OHR 000 109 991**  
**COMPLAINT # 6928 and 6961**  
**NOC and RTC**

Duane McCartney  
Semper Quality Industries  
9411 Mercantile Drive  
Mentor, Ohio 44060

Dear Mr. McCartney:

I have received your March 19, 2007 letter and documentation. This responded to the violations and concerns found during my February 20, 2007 inspection of Semper Quality Industries (Semper) located at 9411 Mercantile Drive in Mentor, Ohio.

In addition, on April 12, 2007, Ed D'Amato and I met with you at Semper. The purpose of the meeting was to follow up on the February inspection and to investigate a second complaint received. This complaint alleged that a grayish material and a drum was found in your solid waste dumpster. We saw a metal, 55-gallon drum in your dumpster. We also spoke with one of your employees who told us he emptied that drum before he put it into the dumpster. As a suggestion, a scrap metal dealer may be able to take any future unusable empty metal drums. I understand that Semper does not normally generate unusable empty metal drums.

You explained that the grayish material that had been in the dumpster was powder coating overspray that could not be reused. You stated that waste from all of the powder coats you use would be non-hazardous wastes. No new violations were found in relation to the allegations of this new complaint.

As outlined below, you have addressed all the issues of my February inspection.

**Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator Violations**

1. OAC rule 3745-52-11 – Hazardous waste determination.  
Waste from MEK recycling unit:

Your letter states that you will now manage this waste as a hazardous waste. On April 12, 2007, you showed us the drum that is now being used to accumulate this waste.

Waste fluorescent lamps:

You will now manage these as universal waste.

30-gallon drum of trichloroethylene:

You will dispose of this as hazardous waste with your next shipment. We saw this drum on April 12, 2007. Please note that the generation of this drum of waste all in

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one month (over 220 pounds) makes Semper a small quantity generator for that month. Additional rules are applicable to small quantity generators. One of these is that hazardous waste can only be accumulated for 180 days or less.

Thinner for steel coat paint:

You have determined that this material is not a waste.

Muriatic acid:

You will neutralize and dispose of this. Please note that if this waste is a hazardous waste (for example, it has a pH of less than 2), then it may only be neutralized if it is not hazardous waste also for some other reason, such as, hazardous waste levels of metals.

Drum suspected to be rainwater that was stored outside:

This will now be disposed. Please note that if the MEK that was found in this waste is from spent MEK that was used as a solvent, then the whole drum of waste is a F005 hazardous waste. On April 12, 2007, we saw that you started transferring the contents of this drum into a metal drum because your waste hauler will not accept waste in plastic drums.

2. Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3734.02(F) – Causing hazardous waste to be transported to an unpermitted facility. See response to the first two items in number 1 above.

### **Concerns**

Your February 26, 2007 memo to all SQI employees addressed the concerns listed in my letter to you dated March 5, 2007.

### **Suggestions**

On April 12, 2007, we noticed what appeared to be a compressed air leak. Even small compressed air leaks can be very expensive. Detection and repair of leaks will probably pay for itself in a very short time. Fact sheets regarding compressed air are enclosed and can also be found at: [http://www.eere.energy.gov/industry/glass/pdfs/compressed\\_air.pdf](http://www.eere.energy.gov/industry/glass/pdfs/compressed_air.pdf), and [http://www.wmrc.uiuc.edu/main\\_sections/info\\_services/library\\_docs/TN/tn07-087.pdf](http://www.wmrc.uiuc.edu/main_sections/info_services/library_docs/TN/tn07-087.pdf). More information can be found at: <http://www.compressedairchallenge.org/>.

A fact sheet titled "Shedding Light on Water" is enclosed. It shows how a company looked at its water usage in its aqueous spray washer used prior to its powder coating operation. The company found that it could save water and money and had a simple payback of its investment in this project in less than 4 months.

The fact sheet can also be found at:

[http://www.wmrc.uiuc.edu/main\\_sections/info\\_services/library\\_docs/TN/tn07-088.pdf](http://www.wmrc.uiuc.edu/main_sections/info_services/library_docs/TN/tn07-088.pdf).

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Mr. D'Amato also noticed an open pipe going through your roof. You said that this used to be the exhaust for a heater. As we discussed, you might want to fix this, especially before next winter. The energy conservation information given to you in the attachment to my March 2007 letter may also be of use.

We discussed that Semper disposes of empty plastic drums and that a different supplier may be willing to take back the empty drums. Or you may want to investigate sending your empty drums to a drums recycler. Lists of local recyclers for many materials can be found at: <http://www.cuyahogawd.org/business/recdirectory.asp>. A copy of the list from this site for barrel and drum recyclers is enclosed.

You can find copies of the regulations and other information on the Division of Hazardous Waste Management web page at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dhwm/>.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (330) 963-1217, or [robert.almquist@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:robert.almquist@epa.state.oh.us).

Sincerely,

  
Robert Almquist  
Division of Hazardous Waste Management

RA: cl  
Enclosures

cc: Natalie Oryshkewych, DHWM, NEDO

ec: Frank Popotnik, DHWM, NEDO  
Harry Sarvis, DHWM, CO  
Colum McKenna, DSIWM, NEDO

NOTICE:

Ohio EPA's failure to list specific deficiencies or violations in this letter does not relieve your facility from its obligation to comply with all applicable regulations.