



Compliance Assistance Success Story

Helping a Small Business Achieve Compliance Following an Emergency Event

Challenge

Throughout the nation, small, family owned businesses often struggle to stay viable, especially if faced with a crisis such as a fire. Sometimes, what may seem like a single, isolated event to address may, in fact, lead to a host of unanticipated problems. Recently, an Ohio company was faced with a fire which caused significant damage to their facility. The family owned business, in operation for more than 25 years, set about cleaning up and repairing the damage, including replacement of an air-permitted paint booth, so they could resume operation.

The paint booth, used to paint large tanks, was an important part of the business operation and provided a significant portion of their business revenue. To further complicate matters, responsibility for the business was recently transferred to other family members who were not as involved in, or knowledgeable about, environmental compliance responsibilities. This combination of events led the business to fall behind on their air compliance monitoring and reporting responsibilities.

When Ohio EPA's Division of Air Pollution Control (DAPC) became aware of the situation, they followed up with the facility. During this follow up, the DAPC inspector learned that the facility was installing a new paint booth in a new location to replace the one lost in the fire. However, the business was unaware of the requirement to obtain an air permit for the new paint booth and appeared headed toward further non-compliance.

Solution

Seeing a potential opportunity for an assistance-based approach to a compliance issue, the DAPC inspector connected the facility with Ohio EPA's Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP). The OCAPP representative worked with the facility to help submit past reporting forms, assisted in completing the required permit application for the new paint booth (including the required air quality modeling) and followed up with the new owners to go over the requirements of their new permit.

During the initial site visit, the OCAPP representative also provided information to the business on how to evaluate and properly dispose of their waste.

Through OCAPP's efforts, this Ohio business received environmental assistance that helped it meet its regulatory obligations while on its way to recovery from a major setback. The facility received the permit that it needed for the installation of the new paint booth and operations resumed. OCAPP also provided the facility with guidance for future compliance, including reporting requirements associated with the new air permit and proper management of wastes generated at the facility.

Resources

Each year, OCAPP helps thousands of businesses with their environmental compliance needs. OCAPP is a free, confidential resource for Ohio businesses that need help with Ohio EPA regulations. OCAPP conducts more than 200 site visits annually to help with permit applications and other Ohio EPA-related records.

This is just one example of how Ohio EPA's compliance assistance services help businesses meet Ohio EPA requirements, reduce potential liability and save money through more environmentally friendly practices. For more information about OCAPP's services, visit epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/assst.aspx or contact our toll-free hotline at (800) 329-7518.

Compliance Assistance Services

OCAPP provides free and confidential assistance to help businesses comply with Ohio's environmental requirements. These services include:

- a toll-free compliance assistance hotline (800) 329-7518 staffed with environmental specialists 8-5 Monday through Friday;
- assistance completing and understanding Ohio EPA forms and permit applications;
- easy-to-understand industry-specific compliance information;
- a quarterly newsletter and monthly email update with information about the latest regulations, publications and training events;
- workshops and webinars; and
- on-site compliance assessments to help identify and maintain environmental compliance.