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Howden North America, Ohio EPA Reach Settlement Over Air Pollution Concerns

Howden North America Inc. (formerly Howden Buffalo Inc.) has worked with Ohio EPA to address violations of air pollution control requirements at its facility, located at 338 South Broadway in New Philadelphia. The facility operations include three paint booths used to coat metal parts. These units emit volatile organic compounds, including several hazardous air pollutants such as toluene and xylene.

Ohio EPA regulates air pollution to protect public health and safety and the environment. The Agency also establishes permit limitations to ensure that facilities are operating in compliance with state and federal air pollution control laws and regulations.

Howden purchased the facility in 1996. Some of the permitting violations date back to the previous owner; however, Howden was responsible for following up to resolve permitting issues when it took over. Other violations include failure to submit reports; maintain appropriate records; demonstrate compliance with maximum achievable emissions control technology; submit emissions reports and pay emissions fees. In addition, the coatings used in the paint booths at times exceeded limitations on volatile organic content.

Howden is working on a study to demonstrate that it is operating the three paint booths in a manner that represents best available control technology.

In a [settlement](#) with Ohio EPA, Howden has agreed to apply for required air permits; properly maintain the facility's emissions units in compliance with state and federal rules; keep records; submit reports as required; and pay a civil penalty of \$109,350. A portion of the penalty (\$21,870) will go to [Ohio EPA's Clean Diesel School Bus Program Fund](#). This fund helps retrofit older school buses with pollution control equipment to reduce particulate emissions from their diesel engines and thereby protect the children who ride the buses. The remaining \$87,480 will be equally split between Ohio EPA's Environmental Education Fund and the administration of air pollution control programs.