

This form will report compliance with your permit as determined by an NRW officer

Site	Harsco Metals Port Talbot				Permit Ref	BP3635MR (as amended)		
Operator/ Permit holder	Harsco Metals Group Ltd							
Date	16 June 2015				Time in	14:00	Out	16.30
What parts of the permit were assessed	See below							
Assessment	EPR - inspection	EPR Activity:	Installation	X	Waste Op		Water Discharge	
Recipient's name/position	Paul Roberts, Environment, Health & Safety Manager, Harsco Metals Port Talbot							
Officers names	DMP Broom & DE Cowie				Date issued		28 July 2015	

Section 1 - Compliance Assessment Summary

This is based on the requirements of the permit under the Environmental Permitting Regulations. A detailed explanation and any action you may need to take are given in the "Detailed Assessment of Compliance" (section 3). This summary details where we believe any non-compliance with the permit has occurred, the relevant condition and how the non-compliance has been categorised using our [Compliance Classification Scheme](#) (CCS). CCS scores can be consolidated or suspended, where appropriate, to reflect the impact of some non-compliances more accurately. For more details of our CCS scheme, contact your [local office](#).

Permit Conditions and Compliance Summary
Condition(s) breached

a) Permitted activities	1. Specified by permit	A	
b) Infrastructure	1. Engineering for prevention & control of pollution	A	
	2. Closure & decommissioning	N	
	3. Site drainage engineering (clean & foul)	N	
	4. Containment of stored materials	N	
	5. Plant and equipment	A	
c) General management	1. Staff competency/ training	N	
	2. Management system & operating procedures	C3	2.3.1 Operating Techniques
	3. Materials acceptance	N	
	4. Storage handling, labelling, segregation	N	
d) Incident management	1. Site security	N	
	2. Accident, emergency & incident planning	A	
e) Emissions	1. Air	A	
	2. Land & Groundwater	N	
	3. Surface water	N	
	4. Sewer	N	
	5. Waste	N	
f) Amenity	1. Odour	N	
	2. Noise	N	
	3. Dust/fibres/particulates	N	
	4. Pests, birds & scavengers	N	
	5. Deposits on road	N	
g) Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting	1. Monitoring of emissions & environment	A	
	2. Records of activity, site diary, journal & events	A	
	3. Maintenance records	N	
	4. Reporting & notification	A	
h) Resource efficiency	1. Efficient use of raw materials	N	
	2. Energy	N	

KEY: C1, C2, C3, C4 = CCS breach category (* suspended scores are marked with an asterisk),
A = Assessed or assessed in part (no evidence of non-compliance), N = Not assessed, NA = Not Applicable

Number of breaches recorded

1

Total compliance score
(see section 5 for scoring scheme)

4

If the Total No Breaches is greater than zero, then please see Section 3 for details of our proposed enforcement response

Section 2 – Compliance Assessment Report Detail

This section contains a report of our findings and will usually include information on:

- the part(s) of the permit that were assessed (e.g. maintenance, training, combustion plant, etc)
- where the type of assessment was 'Data Review' details of the report/results triggering the assessment
- any non-compliances identified
- any non-compliances with directly applicable legislation
- details of any multiple non-compliances
- information on the compliance score accrued inc. details of suspended or consolidated scores.
- details of advice given
- any other areas of concern
- all actions requested
- any examples of good practice.
- a reference to photos taken

Site description

Harsco Metals Group Ltd (Harsco) provides specialist services for the integrated iron and steel works at Port Talbot, Neath Port Talbot. The main steelworks production activities are operated by Tata Steel UK Ltd. Harsco has its own Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) permitted area within the wider steelworks installation. The company undertakes a number of specialist directly associated activities for Tata Steel: steel slag and desulph slag handling, metal recovery, iron plating, scrap metal management, metal cutting and lancing, scarfing of steel slabs and waste oxide briquetting. The majority of these activities are undertaken within Harsco's ring-fenced permitted area but some take place within shared areas of responsibility.

Purpose of visit/assessment

Natural Resources Wales* (NRW) officers visited Tata Steel Port Talbot to progress an investigation into an iron plating event that occurred on 24 January 2015. We previously investigated this event on 11 March 2015 during a meeting with Tata Steel and Harsco Metals.

During this visit we examined some video footage of the event at Tata Steel's offices. We have subsequently been able to conclude our investigation. This report contains our findings in respect of Harsco Metals' involvement with this event.

Person(s) present (Office based)

Tata Steel	Ian Vaughan Jason Heatman Andrew Townsend Reg Bennett Kevin Davies	NRW	Mark Broom Doug Cowie
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Plating event 24/01/15

On Saturday 24 January 2015 NRW received a number of complaints about a release from the steelworks. The source of this release coincided with an event while plating molten iron within the steelworks. CAR Form 5854 issued to Tata Steel contains details of NRW's initial investigation which concluded that ground water was not a contributor or source of the water that caused this event. During this visit we viewed video footage of the molten iron pour from the torpedo into plating pit number 3. The photograph shows the release above the steelworks from this plating operation. There appeared to be no discernible effect of this event on the air quality monitors around the steelworks.



The video showed the pour from the torpedo took around 15 minutes to complete. NRW understands the pour should take 30 minutes; at this rate the iron moves slowly enough to allow any moisture to evaporate in front of the advancing metal. After 8 minutes the hot metal reached the end of pit 3 with little release/fume visible. After 12 minutes the far end of the pit started to fume, then boiled and finally erupted like a volcano scattering molten metal into the air that rained down in front of the camera and the 'igloo'. Tata's initial report into this event suggests that damp slag had been used to prepare pit 3, but this cannot be confirmed. Tata showed us a photo of the pit 7 days before it was used and this showed a pool of water visible towards the far end of the pit. Pit 3 was prepared and dressed with slag by Harsco approximately 2 hours prior to the event, although it is not clear how any standing water was dealt with during this process. What is clear is that the eruption took place in the same part of pit 3 where the standing water had been 7 days earlier.

Turning to the relevant procedures, Harsco Metals' work instruction WI-PT-BOS-0336 (Revision 10) entitled 'Iron Pool Maintenance and Iron Plating into Pits' (page 6, pouring instruction) clearly indicates that Harsco Metals has primary control of the speed of pour and not Tata Steel. Written authorisation from the Tata shift manager/team leader must be submitted to the Harsco shift team leader prior to the pour if it must be speeded up. Harsco confirmed by email that its personnel received no instruction from Tata to change the speed of pour for this plating operation into pit 3. NRW has not found evidence that any such authorisation was submitted to Harsco for the pour into pit number 3 on the morning of 24 January 2015.

The current environmental permits are written in a manner indicating Harsco Metals prepares and maintains the plating pits, and Tata Steel controls the pouring of molten iron into the pits. This does not appear to be the case based on the procedures and series of events NRW has examined. It has become clear to us that Tata Steel moves the torpedo to the designated plating pit and Harsco then pours the iron; the activity should be permitted as such.

Twelve actions were identified by Tata Steel when they and Harsco personnel investigated this event.

1	Re-iteration of the procedures and pouring schedule when the pits could be wet.	Completed
2	Review plating bed dressing instructions to take into account weather conditions	Completed with fresh dry slag used
3	Harsco to formally report on pit condition every shift to the Tata Steel shift leader	Pit conditions are now routinely reported every shift
4	Plating bowls (tundishes) to be returned to standard	There is a plan to refurbish each tundish when required and maintain at least two spare tundishes on 'standby' using old desulph pots.
5	Communications of plating responsibilities for Tata staff	See point 6 below
6	Re-iteration of plating rules to shift staff	The duties of the Tata observer have been reinforced. Tata must give as much notice as possible to the Harsco shift team.
7	Review of plating practices across Tata Steel	Similar practices are used at Scunthorpe and Ijmuiden. In both cases Tata Steel observes rather than manages or controls the pour.
8	Install drainage system within the plating pits	A drainage system has been installed in to pit 3 but there has been little use. It could be that the drainage improvements could be linked to the use of molehills with the molehills used to 'protect' the drains when the pits are dug. There is a concern that the drainage changes etc. will become compacted over time due to movement of heavy plant over the channels.
9	Explore the influence of tide on the ground water beneath the plating pits	The ground water beneath this pit is outside the influence of the tide and does not come within the 'magic' 1.5m of the pit base.
10	Audits of plating activities by the Environmental department	In progress
11	Improve visibility of the pouring operations	A new remote camera will be installed looking across all pits to help improve the visibility of the pits from the control 'igloo'.
12	Review meeting for progress of actions – End Feb 2015	Complete

We have concluded there has been a non-compliance with condition 2.3.1 (Operating Techniques) of Harsco's permit, in respect of the condition of plating pit no. 3 prior to the pour at 0900hrs on 24/01/15. Although NRW accepts this pit was dressed prior to the pour, an eruption and release of fume took place in the same area where standing water was noted and photographed by Tata Steel in the days leading up to the event. We can only conclude that water was still present in the pit at the time of the pour; if this was as a result of extremely heavy rain during the period between the dressing of the pit and the pour, then arguably the pour should not have taken place in pit 3. We have recorded a Compliance Classification Scheme** (CCS) score of **CCS3** in response to this permit non-compliance (**CCS reference 239014**).

With regard to the speed of pour, although NRW believes this was also a contributory factor to the event on 24/01/15 there is currently ambiguity as to which company has responsibility for and is permitted to undertake this part of the plating operation. This must be addressed as soon as possible with Harsco Metals and Tata Steel.

Conclusions and further actions required

In NRW's view, the most likely causes of the plating release on 24/01/15 were a torpedo pour that was too fast and the presence of water in the plating pit. The source of this water is not related to ground water and was most likely due to either problems with standing water when preparing the pit, or very heavy rainfall between pit preparation and pouring the iron. The former is a pit preparation issue and the latter relates to the decision to plate iron and which pit to use. Both areas are the responsibility of Harsco Metals. No discernible effect of the event could be seen on the air quality monitors around the steelworks.

The pouring of molten iron and the maintenance and preparation of the pit are the responsibility of Harsco Metals. The permits for Tata Steel and Harsco Metals need to be reviewed and updated to correctly reflect this arrangement. NRW believes a meeting with both companies present would be the most appropriate way of progressing the necessary permit changes and the inspecting officers will contact the relevant personnel to arrange this.


NRW has completed a corresponding CAR report for Tata Steel UK Ltd (EPR-BL7108IM) in respect of the event on 24/01/15.

**In this document 'Natural Resources Wales' means the Natural Resources Body for Wales established by Article 3 of the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Establishment) Order 2012. You should note that the Natural Resources Body for Wales has been formed by bringing together the Countryside Council for Wales, Forestry Commission Wales and Environment Agency Wales.*

The Natural Resources Body for Wales has been empowered to exercise Welsh devolved functions since 1st April 2013 and has, generally, taken over the responsibilities of the Countryside Council for Wales, the Forestry Commissioners and the Environment Agency in Wales.

***Natural Resources Wales currently applies the same regulatory tools and systems as the Environment Agency.*

[END OF SECTION 2]

	EPR Compliance Assessment Report	Report ID: 5948	
This form will report non-compliance with your permit as determined by an NRW officer			
Site	Harsco Metals Port Talbot	Permit	BP3635MR (as amended)
Operator/ Permit	Harsco Metals Group Ltd	Date	28 July 2015

Section 3- Enforcement Response		Only one of the boxes below should be ticked	
<p>You must take immediate action to rectify any non-compliance and prevent repetition. Non-compliance with your permit conditions constitutes an offence and can result in criminal prosecutions and/or suspension or revocation of a permit. Please read the detailed assessment in Section 2 and the steps you need to take in Section 4 below.</p>			
Other than the provision of advice and guidance, at present we do not intend to take further enforcement action in respect of the non-compliance identified above. This does not preclude us from taking enforcement action if further relevant information comes to light or advice isn't followed.			✓
In respect of the above non-compliance you have been issued with a warning. At present we do not intend to take further enforcement action. This does not preclude us from taking additional enforcement action if further relevant information comes to light or offences continue.			n/a
We will now consider what enforcement action is appropriate and notify you, referencing this form.			n/a

Section 4- Action(s)			
Where a non - compliance has been detected and an enforcement response has been selected above, this section summarises the steps you need to take to return to compliance and also provides timescales for this to be done.			
Criteria Ref.	CCS Category	Action Required/Advised	Due Date
See Section 1 above			
A1	N/A	NRW to arrange a meeting with Tata Steel and Harsco Metals personnel to clarify and agree responsibilities for iron plating at Port Talbot steelworks. The permits need to be reviewed and updated to correctly reflect the current arrangements for this activity.	31 August 2015

Section 5 - Compliance notes for the Operator

To ensure you correct actual or potential non-compliance we may

- advise on corrective actions verbally or in writing
- require you to take specific actions in writing
- issue a notice
- require you to review your procedures or management system
- change some of the conditions of your permit
- decide to undertake a full review of your permit

Any breach of a permit condition is an offence and we may take legal action against you.

- We will normally provide advice and guidance to assist you to come back into compliance either after an offence is committed or where we consider that an offence is likely to be committed. This is without prejudice to any other enforcement response that we consider may be required.
- Enforcement action can include the issue of a formal caution, prosecution, the service of a notice and or suspension or revocation of the permit.

See our Enforcement and Civil Sanctions guidance for further information

This report does not relieve the site operator of the responsibility to

- ensure you comply with the conditions of the permit at all times and prevent pollution of the environment
- ensure you comply with other legislative provisions which may apply.

Non-compliance scores and categories

CCS category	Description	Score
C1	A non-compliance which could have a major environmental effect	60
C2	A non-compliance which could have a significant environmental effect	31
C3	A non-compliance which could have a minor environmental effect	4
C4	A non-compliance which has no potential environmental effect	0.1

Operational Risk Appraisal (Opra) - Compliance assessment findings may affect your Opra score and/or your charges. This score influences the resource we use to assess permit compliance.

Section 6 – General Information

Data protection notice

The information on this form will be processed by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to fulfill its regulatory and monitoring functions and to maintain the relevant public register(s). NRW may also use and/or disclose it in connection with:

- offering/providing you with its literature/services relating to environmental matters
- consulting with the public, public bodies and other organisations (e.g. Health and Safety Executive, local authorities) on environmental issues
- carrying out statistical analysis, research and development on environmental issues
- providing public register information to enquirers
- investigating possible breaches of environmental law and taking any resulting action
- preventing breaches of environmental law
- assessing customer service satisfaction and improving its service
- Freedom of Information Act/Environmental Information Regulations request.

NRW may pass it on to its agents/representatives to do these things on its behalf. You should ensure that any persons named on this form are informed of the contents of this data protection notice.

Disclosure of information

NRW will provide a copy of this report to the public register(s). However, if you consider that any information contained in this report should not be released to the public register(s) on the grounds of commercial confidentiality, you must write to your local area office within twenty working days of receipt of this form indicating which information it concerns and why it should not be released, giving your reasons in full.

Customer charter

What can I do if I disagree with this compliance assessment report?

If you are unable to resolve the issue with your site officer, you should firstly discuss the matter with the officer's line managers. If you wish to raise your dispute further through our official **Complaints** and **Commendations** procedure, phone our general enquiry number **0300 065 3000** (Mon to Fri **08.00–18.00**) and ask for the **Customer Contact team** or send an email to enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk. If you are still dissatisfied you can make a complaint to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. For advice on how to complain to the Ombudsman phone their helpline on **(0845) 601 0987**.