

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0039965

Permit being assessed: AP3433ES.

For: Dowlais Slaughterhouse EPR/AP3433ES, held by Kepak Group Limited

At: Pengarnddu Industrial Estate Dowlais Top , Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales, CF48 2TA.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection, Reason: Routine.

On 25/05/2022 between 11:00 and 13:30.

Parts of permit assessed: Activities

NRW Lead Officer: Mostyn Wall, accompanied by Dale Padfield.

Report sent to: Steve Davies, Site Head of Technical, Meat Division on 27/05/2022.

1. Summary of our findings (full details in section 4)

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
B5 - Infrastructure - Plant and equipment	Action only (X)	
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Result types are explained in more detail in the 'Important Information' section below.

Total number of non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
0	0

How we use the non-compliance score to calculate your annual fee is explained in the 'Important Information' section below.

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
B5	Kepak to send the odour logger data in excel format. Last 4 months of data. Kepak to send ETP flow/operation data in excel format to compare odour spikes and operation of the ETP. Last 4 months of data Kepak to send the dates of the pit cleaning from the last 4 months.	17/06/2022
B5	Site to send information of the proposed laboratory on the site Site to propose improvements using the proposed onsite laboratory. What can the site monitor using the lab to improve the ETP performance and control (for example turbidity checks?)	17/06/2022

Action criteria codes are listed in the 'Important information' section below.

3. What will happen next?

Any non-compliance we have identified and recorded on this form is an offence. It can result in criminal prosecution and/or suspension or revocation of your permit.

At this time, we do not intend to take any further action.

This statement does not stop us from taking additional enforcement action if further relevant information comes to light or offences continue.

4. Details of our assessment

Mostyn Wall and Dale Padfield visited Kepak at Dowlais Top with Heather Pepper, the trade effluent officer from Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW). The joint visit from NRW and DCWW was to discuss the results of the recent odour filter installed at the High Street, to inspect the Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) and discuss the discharges to sewer from the site. The aim of the meeting was to further investigate and discuss the odour issues reported at Dowlais Top to both NRW and DCWW.

A discussion at the site was had around site activities and work processes put in place. An inspection of the ETP, sample pits, odour logger and sewer network at the site took place.

Site Updates

Kepak has just finished the BRC (British Retail Consortium) and ISO 14001 audit of their management system. Both audits went well.

Kepak have put in two new positions at the site, an environmental sustainability coordinator and a new technical services manager. They will start in Mid June 2022 and report to Steve Davies.

Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) operation

The ETP is being run by Rusty; since he oversaw the ETP from late 2021, compliance results, performance, and results of the ETP have generally improved. 4 other ETP operators work under Rusty and 1 more position is to be filled.

Rusty noted that some odour complaints and high H₂S peaks on the odour logger coincide with the ETP not running. NRW has asked the site to confirm this by seeing the odour logger and ETP flow and process data.

The site is in the process of updating and documenting the ETP work processes at the site.

DCWW have installed an odour filter at the High Street in Dowlais Top. The filter efficacy is monitored using two odour loggers above and below the odour filter and the data from the high street can be compared to the Kepak odour logger.

The Kepak odour logger is now located at the edge of the permitted area before the sewer network enters the DCWW network. The odour logger looked in good condition and was well above the effluent flow. The manhole where the Kepak sewer meets the DCWW network is characterised by high effluent flow, a large drop and significant turbulence in the flow.

Action:

- Kepak to send the odour logger data in excel format. Last 4 months of data.
- Kepak to send ETP flow/operation data in excel format to compare odour spikes and operation of the ETP. Last 4 months of data
- Kepak to send the dates of the pit cleaning from the last 4 months.

Automation of the ETP is being discussed at the site. Automation is planned for pH control and flow proportional dosing based on a new flow meter to be installed in PP8.

The site is also investigating the possibility of installing a laboratory at the ETP site.

Action:

- Site to send information of the proposed laboratory on the site
- Site to propose improvements using the proposed onsite laboratory. What can the site monitor using the lab to improve the ETP performance and control (for example turbidity checks?)

End.

If you have any queries about this report, or to discuss completion of any actions, please contact the NRW Officer named above.

Important information

Legal status of this report

Your permit is issued to you under the Environmental Permitting Regulations. You have a responsibility to comply with the conditions of your permit and prevent pollution/harm of the environment. You must also ensure that you comply with any other relevant legislation that may apply to your site's operations.

This report explains the findings of our assessment and any action you are required to take. We categorise non-compliance using our guidance for assessing non-compliance at regulated sites.

When we find potential non-compliance/s we will normally give you advice on how to maintain compliance.

To correct non-compliance, we may:

- require you to take specific actions
- issue a notice
- review the conditions of your permit.

Any advice and guidance we give will be without prejudice to any other enforcement response that we consider may be required.

Assessment results and non-compliance categories (used in section 1):

Assessment result	Description
Assessed (A)	Assessed or assessed in part, no evidence of non-compliance found
Action only (X)	Action only relating to the activity assessment
Ongoing (O)	Ongoing non-compliance, not scored

Non-compliance category	Description	Score
C1 Major	Potential to have a major, serious, persistent and/or extensive impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property	60
C2 Significant	Potential to have a significant impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property	31
C3 Minor	Potential to have a minor or minimal impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property	4
C4 No environmental impact	Non-compliance at a regulated site that cannot foreseeably have any impact on the environment, people and/or property	0.1

How we use assessment scores

The number and severity of non-compliances recorded in a year will affect your annual subsistence fee the following year. A non-compliance factor is added to your site's Operator

Performance Risk Appraisal (OPRA) score when we calculate your fee to reflect the additional resource we use to assess permit compliance.

What are suspended scores?

In line with our guidance, we may suspend scores for up to six months to allow time for remedial action to be taken. Suspended scores will be re-instated if the action is not completed.

Full list of Industry and Waste action criteria (used in section 1 and 2):**A: Permitted activities**

- A1 Specified by permit

B: Infrastructure

- B1 Infrastructure – Engineering for prevention and control of emissions
- B2 Infrastructure – Closure and decommissioning
- B3 Infrastructure – Site drainage engineering (clean and foul)
- B4 Infrastructure – Containment of stored materials
- B5 Infrastructure – Plant and equipment

C: General management

- C1 General management – Staff competency/training
- C2 General management – Management system and operating procedures
- C3 General management – Materials acceptance
- C4 General management – Storage, handling, labelling and segregation

D: Incident management

- D1 Incident management – Site security
- D2 Incident management – Accidents, emergency and incident planning

E: Emissions

- E1 Emissions – Air
- E2 Emissions – Land and groundwater
- E3 Emissions – Surface water
- E4 Emissions – Sewer
- E5 Emissions – Waste

F: Amenity

- F1 Amenity – Odour
- F2 Amenity – Noise
- F3 Amenity – Dust/fibres/particulates and litter
- F4 Amenity – Pests/birds and scavengers
- F5 Amenity – Deposits on road

G: Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting

- G1 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Monitoring of emissions and environment
- G2 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Records of activity, site diary/journal/events
- G3 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Maintenance records
- G4 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Reporting and notification to Natural Resources Wales

H: Resources efficiency

- H1 Resource efficiency – Efficient use of raw materials
- H2 Resource efficiency – Energy efficiency

Enforcement response

Any permit condition non-compliance is an offence and we may take legal action against you. Action we take can include prosecution, serving a notice on you and/or suspension or revocation of your permit. See our Enforcement and Sanctions Guidance for further information.

Data protection notice

You should make sure that anyone named in this report knows that the information it contains will be processed by Natural Resources Wales to fulfil its regulatory and monitoring functions and to maintain the relevant public register(s).

We may also use and/or disclose the report in connection with:

- offering or providing you with our literature or 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
- assessing customer service satisfaction and improving our service
- Freedom of Information Act or Environmental Information Regulations requests.

We may also pass it on to our agents or representatives to do these things on our behalf.

Disclosure of information – this report will be available to view on-line

If you think this report contains commercially confidential information that should not be placed on our public register, you must contact your local Natural Resources Wales office within **fifteen working days** of receiving this report, using the contact details in the accompanying email or letter. You must give a full explanation of why it should not be added to our public register, including specifying which information is commercially confidential. We will assess your request and respond to you within 20 working days to let you know if we agree to your request.

What do I do if I disagree with the report or have a complaint?

If you disagree with this compliance assessment report, you should contact the lead officer without delay to discuss your concerns.

If you are unable to resolve the issue with the lead officer or their line manager you should contact our Customer Contact team on 0300 065 3000 (Monday to Friday 08:00 – 18:00), or email enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk for details of how to raise your dispute further through our Complaints and Commendations procedure.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you can contact the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales by phone on 0300 7900203 or by email at ask@ombudsman.wales

Welsh Language Standards

We are committed to establishing Natural Resources Wales as a naturally bilingual organisation. We will provide compliance reports in your preferred language.