

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0040247

Permit being assessed: BB3299FN.

For: SL Recycling Ltd, held by SL Recycling LTD

At: Unit 1, Pontyfelin Industrial Estate, New Inn, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 0DQ.

Type of assessment carried out: Audit, Reason: Other.

On 12/07/2022 - 11/08/2022 between 10:00 and 09:00.

Parts of permit assessed: A, B, C, D, F, G

NRW Lead Officer: Alex Bowder.

Report sent to: Becky Tucker, Stacey Lewis, Gareth Hill, Technically Competent Manager, Business Director and Environmental Consultant on 11/08/2022.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
A1 - Specified by permit	Assessed (A)	
B1 - Infrastructure - Engineering for prevention and control of emissions	Assessed (A)	
B3 - Infrastructure - Site drainage engineering (clean and foul)	Assessed (A)	
B4 - Infrastructure - Containment of stored materials	Assessed (A)	
B5 - Infrastructure - Plant and equipment	Action only (X)	
C1 - General Management - Staff competency/training	Assessed (A)	
C2 - General Management - Management system and operating procedures	C2 Significant	1.1.1
C3 - General Management - Materials acceptance	Assessed (A)	
C4 - General Management - Storage, handling labelling and Segregation	Assessed (A)	
D2 - Incident Management - Accidents, emergency and incident planning	Assessed (A)	
F1 - Amenity - Odour	Assessed (A)	
F2 - Amenity - Noise	Action only (X)	
F3 - Amenity - Dust/fibres/particulates and litter	Assessed (A)	
G2 - Monitoring and Records, Maintenance and Reporting - Records of activity, site diary/journal/events	Assessed (A)	
G4 - Monitoring and Records, Maintenance and Reporting - Reporting and notification to Natural Resources Wales	Assessed (A)	

Result types are explained in more detail in the 'Important Information' section below.

Total number of non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
1	31

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	Submit to NRW timescales for the purchase and installation of metal pre-shredder equipment.	02/09/2022
C2	The operator must implement additional measures to further reduce the risk of future deflagration events and decrease the frequency in which they are occurring. The current management systems do not appropriately address deflagrations and lacks sufficient information on the control measures and operational activities. In-line with industry guidance, the operator must: (i) produce a robust Deflagration Management Plan and (ii) investigate into sourcing pre-shredding equipment to reduce the frequency of incidents.	30/09/2022
F2	Provide NRW with timescales for erecting and encasing metal shredder equipment with purchased stockades.	02/09/2022

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.

You are non-compliant with your permit.

We are currently considering taking enforcement action against you for the non-compliance recorded above. We will contact you in due course.

4. Details of our assessment

*This compliance report relates to the audit document that details the evaluation process and physical inspection conducted by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Officers between 12 July and 11 August 2022 at S L Recycling Limited, Unit 1, Pontyfelin Industrial Estate, Pontypool, NP4 0DQ - Permit number **EPR-BB3299FN**. Please reference the audit document for further detail.*

CATEGORY 2 BREACH - PERMIT CONDITION 1.1.1**(C2) - GENERAL MANAGEMENT - MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
AND OPERATING PROCEDURES**

"The operator shall manage and operate the activities: in accordance with a written management system that identifies and minimises risks of pollution, including those arising from operations, maintenance, accidents, incidents, non-conformances, closure and those drawn to the attention of the operator as a result of complaints."

The operator's current rate of shredding, relative to the number of deflagration incidents that have occurred, is above the expected industry threshold. Whilst it is not a breach of the permit to have a deflagration, failure to identify and remove unwanted wastes from entering the shredder has resulted in multiple incidents occurring over the past twelve months that have caused environmental impacts to local areas.

This demonstrates that the operator must implement additional measures to further reduce the risk of future deflagration events and decrease the frequency in which they are occurring. The current management systems do not appropriately address deflagrations and lacks sufficient information on the control measures and operational activities.

In-line with industry guidance, the operator must: (i) produce a robust Deflagration Management Plan and (ii) investigate into sourcing pre-shredding equipment to reduce the frequency of incidents.

A **Category 2** breach has been scored against condition 1.1.1 to highlight this non-compliance.

No	ACTION DETAILS	DEADLINE
1	Create a Deflagration Management Plan that addresses the procedures that should be followed to reduce the risk of deflagration incidents. Submit to NRW for review.	30 September 2022
2	Submit timescales for the purchase and installation of pre-shredder equipment.	2 September 2022
3	Provide NRW with timescales for erecting and encasing shredder with purchased stockades.	2 September 2022
4	Continue to manage compliant storage levels and reasonable stockpile heights to safeguard against fire risk and visual pollution.	Immediate

If you have any issues with this compliance audit report, please contact Officer Alex Bowder at Alex.Bowder@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk



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.