

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0040515

Permit being assessed: YP3937SH.

For: Amex Park, held by Mekatek Limited

At: Amex Park Llanstephan Road , Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire, SA31 3NF.

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

On 12/09/2022 between 09:30 and 14:00.

Parts of permit assessed: Improvement conditions regards IED Waste treatment Bref

NRW Lead Officer: Ffion Thomas, accompanied by Michael Launder.

Report sent to: Peter Ryall, Senior Compliance Officer on 10/10/2022.

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)	
C2 - General Management - Management system and operating procedures	Assessed (A)	
C4 - General Management - Storage, handling labelling and Segregation	Assessed (A)	
H2 - Resource Efficiency - Energy efficiency	Assessed (A)	
B1 - Infrastructure - Engineering for prevention and control of emissions	Assessed (A)	
B4 - Infrastructure - Containment of stored materials	Assessed (A)	
C1 - General Management - Staff competency/training	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
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?

No action required.

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

This compliance assessment report (CAR) for was completed following the site visit undertaken on the 12th of September related to the Mekatek Installations permit number YP3937SH. The visit centred around assessing compliance of permit improvement conditions that had been set related to the IED Waste Treatment Bref and BAT conclusions.

Agenda was shared ahead of the visit:

1. Introductions and induction
2. Site development awareness (new transfer station, consolidated permit).
3. Waste treatment BREF– Improvement conditions submissions previously received; the list below are items that required additional review to confirm if demonstrating BAT compliance:
 - a. IC26 – BAT 4, Reduce the environmental risk associated with the storage of waste. The documents submitted demonstrate compliance with BAT 4 but a site visit check of the new transfer station building will aid confirming handling techniques that minimise unnecessary handling of waste. (see Bat 4 table technique a second bullet point)
 - b. IC28- BAT 19, Engineering standard of surfaces, documents submitted indicate compliance, site visit to check on repairs to infrastructure undertaken.
 - c. IC29- BAT20 (AEL's) Referring to Bat 20 Table 6.1 and Schedule 3b table S3.2 of permit. Update on Dissolved Air Filtration system and inhouse sampling.
 - d. IC30 -BAT 23 a), Energy Efficiency plan, Update on plan development, which is to include key performance indicators, planning periodic improvement targets and actions.
 - e. Overarching - check of how your EMS, documenting BAT updated procedures, track staff training of these updated procedures.
4. Site walk over – inspection of areas identified above under point 3, layout awareness since new building constructed, and time allowing visit to discharge point for updated awareness since outfall re-design.
5. AOB

Present:

Ffion Thomas – Senior officer Industry Regulation NRW

Michael Launder – Senior officer Industry Reg NRW

Peter Ryall – Senior Compliance officer, Mekatek Business Group

Daniel Lewis – Technical and Compliance Director, Mekatek Business Group

1. Introductions and induction:

This was the first face to face site visit since the Covid19 pandemic. Ffion had returned to Industry Regulation in SW following NRW internal movement of staff and introduced Michael Launder, new member of the NRW Ind Reg team. This was an opportunity to meet in person with Peter Ryall, previous to this an MS teams meeting had been held, and to reacquaint with Daniel Lewis whom Ffion had previously met.

No site induction was required, beyond visitor sign in book, as NRW staff were accompanied throughout the visit.

2. Site development awareness (new transfer station, consolidated permit)

Discussions were held regards the consolidated permit and payment. Email dialogue had been held with NRW finance teams in cross checking invoice and activities listed. Ffion Thomas had been under the impression that the consolidation of the installation permit had incorporated the waste facility activities, but this was an error. The Installation permit consolidation had only included the consolidation of previous variation notices (5) and the inclusion of Improvement Conditions following the issuing of a Reg 61 notice related to the IED Waste treatment Bref review.

Advice and guidance was provided to Mekatek for the business to consider future planning of activities and if any activities were to be ceased or new incorporated, along with the desire to consolidate the 2 permits this would require a operator lead permit variation application. NRW can offer 2hrs of free pre-application advice, beyond which is a chargeable service.

Peter and Dan confirmed the new transfer station building to manage hazardous waste storage and handling was fully operational. The area was later visited during the site walk over.

3. Waste treatment BREF– Improvement conditions submissions review to confirm if demonstrating BAT compliance:

Below has been taken from the permit review Decision document but is relevant in scene setting for this compliance review:

The permit has been varied following the publication of the revised Best Available Techniques (BAT) Reference Documents (BREF) for Waste Treatment. The associated BAT conclusions to this document were published on 17 August 2018 in the Official Journal of the European Union.

[Best Available Techniques \(BAT\) Reference Document for Waste Treatment Industrial Emissions Directive 2010/75/EU Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32010L0075&from=doj)

The original permit, issued on the 16 June 2006, ensured that the installation, employed Best Available Techniques (BAT) and ensured a high level of protection for human health and the environment. We altered the permit as a result of the statutory review and were

confident that the new requirements would deliver a superior level of protection to that which was previously achieved.

We issued a Notice under Regulation 61(1) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 on 05 April 2019 requiring the operator to provide information to demonstrate how the operation of their installation currently meets, or will subsequently meet, the revised standards described in the relevant BAT Conclusions document.

The Regulation 61(1) Notice response from the operator was received on 27 September 2019, and additional information received on 07 October 2020, 27 April 2021 and 30 April 2021.

Based on the information provided in the Regulation 61(1) response, we consider that we need to set improvement conditions. These conditions are set out in the table below. We used these conditions to require the operator to provide Natural Resources Wales with details that need to be established or confirmed during operations. The improvement conditions ensure compliance by 2022.

Reference	Requirement	Date
IC24	BAT 1. Implement and adhere to an environmental management system (EMS) The operator shall submit to Natural Resources Wales information in order to evidence compliance with BAT 1 that incorporates all of the following features in accordance with requirements specified within BAT Conclusion of the Waste Treatment BREF Document (EU 2018): XII. residues management plan (see description in Section 6.5);	17 February 2022 or otherwise agreed in writing with Natural Resources Wales
IC25	BAT 2. Improve the overall environmental performance of the plant The operator shall submit to Natural Resources Wales information in order to evidence compliance with BAT 2 using all of the techniques given below in accordance with requirements specified within BAT Conclusion of the Waste Treatment BREF Document (EU 2018): g. Sort solid incoming waste – S6.4	17 February 2022 or otherwise agreed in writing with Natural Resources Wales

IC26	BAT 4. Reduce the environmental risk associated with the storage of waste The operator shall submit to Natural Resources Wales information in order to evidence compliance with BAT 4 using all of the techniques given below in accordance with requirements specified within BAT Conclusion of the Waste Treatment BREF Document (EU 2018): a. Optimised storage location b. Adequate storage capacity c. Safe storage operation d. Separate area for storage & handling of packaged hazardous waste	17 February 2022 or otherwise agreed in writing with Natural Resources Wales
IC27	BAT 18: Techniques to prevent, or where not practicable reduce noise and vibration emissions. The operator shall submit to Natural Resources Wales information in order to evidence compliance with BAT 18 using one or a combination of the following in accordance with requirements specified within BAT Conclusion of the Waste Treatment BREF Document (EU 2018): a. Appropriate location of equipment and buildings b. Operational measures c. Low-noise equipment d. Noise & vibration control equipment e. Noise attenuation	17 February 2022 or otherwise agreed in writing with Natural Resources Wales
IC28	BAT 19 Optimise water consumption, reduce waste water generation and prevent/reduce emissions to soil and water The operator shall submit to Natural Resources Wales information in order to evidence compliance with BAT 19 requiring the use of one or a combination of techniques in accordance with requirements specified within BAT Conclusion of the Waste Treatment BREF Document (EU 2018): c. impermeable surface- information on how the site complies with CIRIA 736 or an equivalent engineering standard to which the surface complies together with sign off from construction by a Certified Quality Auditor. d. Reduce likelihood and impact of tank/vessel overflows and failures- provide a copy of the single plan detailing all of the control measure in one concise document to illustrate the controls in place more suitably.	17 February 2022 or otherwise agreed in writing with Natural Resources Wales

IC29	BAT 20 Reduce emissions to water The operator shall submit to Natural Resources Wales a written procedure(s) in accordance with requirements specified within BAT Conclusions of the Waste Treatment BREF Document (EU 2018) in relation to: BAT 20 - In order to reduce emissions to water, BAT is to treat waste water using an appropriate combination of the techniques described within BAT 20 Table. BAT 20 applies to all sites that treat waste waters on site to reduce emissions prior to discharge. a, Operator is to provide information on how the Physico-chemical treatments listed within BAT 20 table are carried out. b. BAT-associated emission levels (BAT-AELs) for direct discharges to a receiving water body should comply with Table 6.1 of BAT 20.	17 February 2022 or otherwise agreed in writing with Natural Resources Wales
IC30	BAT 23 Use energy efficiently. The operator shall submit to Natural Resources Wales information in order to evidence compliance with BAT 23 requiring the use both of the following techniques in accordance with requirements specified within BAT Conclusion of the Waste Treatment BREF Document (EU 2018): a. Energy efficiency plan b. Energy balance record	17 February 2022 or otherwise agreed in writing with Natural Resources Wales
IC31	BAT 24 Reuse of Packaging The operator shall submit to Natural Resources Wales a Residues Management Plan in order to evidence compliance with BAT 24 (see also BAT 1 XII) in accordance with requirements specified within BAT Conclusion of the Waste Treatment BREF Document (EU 2018).	17 February 2022 or otherwise agreed in writing with Natural Resources Wales

IC32	BAT 33 biological treatment odour emissions The operator shall submit to Natural Resources Wales for approval information to evidence compliance with the following BAT requirements in accordance with requirements specified within BAT Conclusions of the Waste Treatment BREF Document (EU 2018): BAT 33 In order to reduce odour emissions and to improve the overall environmental performance, by selecting the waste input (to ensure its suitability for biological treatment).	17 February 2022 or otherwise agreed in writing with Natural Resources Wales
IC33	BAT 35 biological treatment generation of wastewater and reduction of water usage The operator shall submit to Natural Resources Wales for approval information to evidence compliance with the following BAT requirements in accordance with requirements specified within BAT Conclusions of the Waste Treatment BREF Document (EU 2018): BAT 35 In order to reduce the generation of wastewater and to reduce water usage, BAT is to use all of the techniques described within BAT 35 Table.	17 February 2022 or otherwise agreed in writing with Natural Resources Wales
IC34	BAT 52 Improve overall environmental performance by monitoring the waste input as part of the waste pre-acceptance and acceptance procedures. The operator shall submit to Natural Resources Wales information in order to evidence compliance with BAT 52 (see also BAT 2) by monitoring the waste input of: • Bio eliminability e.g. BOD, BOD-COD ratio, Zahn-Willens test, biological inhibition potential • Feasibility of emulsion breaking e.g. lab testing in accordance with requirements specified within BAT Conclusion of the Waste Treatment BREF Document (EU 2018).	17 February 2022 or otherwise agreed in writing with Natural Resources Wales

- Response from the operator to these improvement conditions were received on 17/2/2022 from Peter Ryall via Email. The email including text submission against IC24-34 and additional documents against IC 24, 27, 28, and 34.

Documents received:

IC24 – Residual Management Plan

IC27 QP86 Carmarthen Noise Management Plan Statement

IC28 Site Plan Inc Tank and Vessel details

IC34 SWP371 Lab Toxicity Test

- Further email response was received on 30/6/22 from Peter Ryall following NRW's initial review of the submissions and request for clarification. The email included text provided against IC 24, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31,

Documents received:

IC24 - QP98 Residual Management Plan

IC26 -- Appendix 12 Sensitive Receptors. New Transfer station plan & New Transfer Station Plan birds eye view

IC28- Site plan – Vessel details & monitoring control measures

IC30 - MS445 Energy efficiently Plan & Balance record

- A final email response was received on 10/8/22 from Peter Ryall providing submission updates against IC 28, 30 following survey works.

Documents received:

IC28 – 2022 07 Thomas Davies Associates Report. & 2022 07 Thomas Davies Associates survey

IC30 – MS446 Energy Efficiency Plan Balance Record

Bref IC BATc review Conclusion

As detailed in the permit variation decision document we consider that the installation already employed what used to be BAT, and that the operator has achieved significant improvements in performance since the permit was originally granted. The revised BREF and its BAT-AELs provide the opportunity to consider further environmental improvements.

NRW undertook a review of the Improvement condition submissions to confirm if the BATc were being addressed, NRW confirmed via email on 5/7/22 that the following IC's had received initial checks and that they had now been passed to Ffion Thomas for technical review.

Ffion Thomas undertook a technical review of the IC submissions against the BAT conclusions, cross referencing to guidance and peer reviewing IC33 confirming it was not applicable. A file note was produced of the findings and the following IC's required further site attendance to confirm demonstrating BAT compliance:

- a. IC26 – BAT 4, Reduce the environmental risk associated with the storage of waste. During the Site walk round, the new transfer station building was inspected. The building was purpose built and the design eliminates double

handling for cost savings as well as optimisation e.g. weighing scales positioned for optimal processing. The inspection witnessed operations being undertaken and confirmed handling techniques minimise unnecessary handling of waste. The documents submitted and site discussions demonstrate compliance with BAT 4

- b. IC28- BAT 19, Engineering standard of surfaces, documents submitted indicate compliance, the site visit confirmed the required repairs to infrastructure were scheduled and that the damage did not compromise the bunding integrity and that further pollution prevention mitigation of spill kits were available. The documents submitted and site discussions demonstrate compliance with BAT19
- c. IC29- BAT20 (AEL's) Referring to Bat 20 Table 6.1 and Schedule 3b table S3.2 of permit. On site discussion confirmed that the historical data of phosphorous were over the 2mg/l AEL limit. Mekatek have looked at different technologies and following lab bench trials confirmed the DAF system would achieve the results required of lowering the phosphorous to within limits. In 2021 a small pilot plant was installed, and it was discovered this beneficially also lowered TOC. The Dissolved Air Filtration system has now been installed and is operational. Inhouse laboratory sampling has also seen improvement with new inhouse testing technologies being used for wet chemical testing and further technologies are being considered by the procurement team. NRW confirm No permit variation is required for the DAF as RGN8 guidance states 4.3 Where a subsequent change in operation is within the scope of the permit and is not contrary to any permit conditions or waste management plan, the operator will not need to apply to vary its permit. Confirmation was also received that the EMS has been updated to include the QP for the lab testing technology updaters. The documents submitted and site discussions demonstrate compliance with BAT20
- d. IC30 -BAT 23 a), Energy Efficiency plan, confirmation was shown through sharing of documents during the visit, and subsequent email received illustrating that the balance spreadsheet also included planned key performance indicators, planning periodic improvement targets and actions. Quarterly meetings are held with the site manager to discuss progress and identify new targets and improvements as new technologies emerge. The documents submitted and site discussions demonstrate compliance with BAT23 a)

In addition, an overarching check of how the EMS, documenting BAT updated procedures, tracked staff training of these updated procedures was confirmed. Mekatek are using new computer shared drive system to track staff training and flag when training refresher

needed, or any training is missing from a person's portfolio. Mekatek are now moving towards a cloud-based system with prompt of when training is due and which will send request to staff and sign them off when completed for both internal and standard scope training. This integrated compliance software was launched in October and will take 6 months to bed in, with an evaluation to be made in April 2022. This system demonstrates use of BAT.

Conclusion of Improvement condition technical review:

The submitted documents and subsequent site visit demonstrate compliance with the improvement conditions and related BAT conclusions.

4. Site walk over

Inspection of areas identified above under point 3 were undertaken and confirmed compliance e.g., layout of the new building confirmed minimisation of waste handling, Infrastructure repairs, and the DAF unit operations in meeting BAT AEL's (the lab was not visited)

Photographs were taken during the visit and are presented in PowerPoint album referenced "Mekatek Site visit 12th September 2022 photo's"

A visit to discharge point for updated awareness was undertaken. This confirmed that no outfall layout changes had been required following the use of a floc dosing unit to aid in de-foaming.

5. AOB : permit variation discussions were held. The operator was informed that NRW will be consulting on their fees and charges with a predicted implementation date for changes to be made by April 2023. Mekatek are to consider their business options and apply to vary their permit should a consolidation of waste activities into the installations permit be desired. At the stage of such an application a permit variation would incorporate the documentation submitted demonstrating BAT against the revised Waste treatment Brief.

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.