

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0040381

Permit being assessed: AB3591ZQ.

For: Maelor Foods Limited, held by Maelor Foods Limited

At: Maelor Foods Limited, Pickhill Lane, Cross Lanes, Wrexham, Wrexham, LL13 0UE.

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

On 01/09/2022 between 13:20 and 16:00.

Parts of permit assessed: See Below

NRW Lead Officer: Philip Harper, accompanied by Victoria Griffin.

Report sent to: Sean Hutchinson, Health Safety and Environmental Manager on 17/10/2022.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
A1 - Specified by permit	C3 Minor (Suspended)	3.2.3
E3 - Emissions - Surface water	Assessed (A)	
F1 - Amenity - Odour	Assessed (A)	
F3 - Amenity - Dust/fibres/particulates and litter	Assessed (A)	
F4 - Amenity - Pests/birds and scavengers	Assessed (A)	
F5 - Amenity - Deposits on road	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	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
A1	See Main Text Body	Already completed

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

Natural Resources Wales Senior Industry and Waste Regulation Officers Phil Harper and Victoria Griffin visited Maelor Foods Ltd, Pickhill Lane, Cross Lanes, Wrexham, LL13 0UE at 10:30 am on the 17th June 2022. This was an announced inspection which was accompanied by the sites Health Safety and Environmental Manager and the Head of Engineering.

A1 Specified by Permit.

Leaking Balance Tank

A damaged balance tank had been noted during an inspection on the 17th June 2022 and was addressed in Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) form CAR_NRW0040070.

The site has disclosed plans to replace the tank with a time frame of approximately 18 months. Currently systems have been put into place to prevent the tank from filling past 75 % capacity, which would result in leakage. These plans have been agreed as appropriate by Natural Resources Wales.

Permit condition 3.2.3 states that “All liquids in containers, whose emission to water or land could cause pollution, shall be provided with secondary containment, unless the operator has used other appropriate measures to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to minimise, leakage and spillage from the primary container”.

The leak is an unconsented discharge which poses a pollution risk to an area of unmade ground adjacent to the site balance tanks. However, no active leak was observed at the time of the inspection.

An 18-month plan has been submitted to Natural Resources Wales confirming the execution of a project to replace the balance tank commencing during the week starting the 10th October 2022.

A **category 3 score** has been applied against **permit condition 3.2.3**. This score has been suspended while the site executes plans to replace the balance tank.

Natural Resources Wales believes that a permit variation will be required to amend the location of the balance tank. Please ensure all necessary amendments are in place before commissioning the new balance tank.

E3 Emissions to Surface Water

Treated effluent is routinely discharged from the site using emission point W1. On the 21st August Natural Resources Wales received a report describing a discoloured discharge from the outfall point associated with W1.

On the 1st September 2022 the outfall point was inspected as part of the site inspection. It was noted that low flow and short duration high flow events occur. During low flow, the discharge appeared to have no colouration as shown below.



However, discolouration was observed during high flow events as shown below.



A sample of process water was taken during a high flow event was analysed by the operator. Results showed a concentration of suspended solids which was elevated but below the permitted limit. It is understood that adjustments have been made to the concentrations of chemicals used in the water purification process and the effluent has since returned to expected parameters. No permit breaches have been reported.

F1 Odour

No odours which could be attributed to the site operations were noted outside of the site boundary.

F3 Dust/fibres/particulates and litter

No dust or litter outside of the site boundary.

F4 Pests/birds and scavengers

No vermin observed on site. All anti vermin closures on openings were in place and in good condition.

F5 Deposits on road

No deposits or mud on the road outside the site.

Water Resources

The site benefits from an abstraction licence WA/067/0007/0015. A separate CAR form will be issued.

Kind Regards

Phil Harper

Senior Industry and Waste Regulation Officer NE

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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.