

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0040568

Permit being assessed: BJ9681IX.

For: Oakenholt Mill EPR/BJ9681IX, held by SCA Hygiene Products UK Limited

At: OAKENHOLT PAPER MILL CHESTER ROAD , FLINT, FLINT, CLWYD, CH6 5PU.

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

On 30/09/2022 between 09:05 and 11:45.

Parts of permit assessed: See below

NRW Lead Officer: Paul Challender, accompanied by Victoria Griffin.

Report sent to: Dawn Harris, Environmental & Quality Engineer on 20/10/2022.

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)	
B1 - Infrastructure - Engineering for prevention and control of emissions	Assessed (A)	
B3 - Infrastructure - Site drainage engineering (clean and foul)	Assessed (A)	
E1 - Emissions - Air	Assessed (A)	
E3 - Emissions - Surface water	Assessed (A)	
F5 - Amenity - Deposits on road	Assessed (A)	
G1 - Monitoring and Records, Maintenance and Reporting - Monitoring of emissions and environment	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
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 was a routine pre-organised inspection of the permitted site by the regulating Natural Resources Wales (NRW) officers. The NRW officers met with and were accompanied by the Environmental & Quality Engineer and the Environmental & Quality Apprentice at all times. Other pertinent Essity staff were liaised with as and when required during the inspection visit.

This was the first meeting with the new Environmental & Quality Engineer and several areas were discussed regarding the separate permitting that exist at the operation site, this included the installation and the abstraction permits within the regulating officer's remit.

The potential for the removal, addition, moving and renumbering of emission points to air was discussed for the older of the papermill buildings. Not only would this require the remapping of the emission points as currently shown on the plan IPPC 2.3-3 Rev a 21/02/15 but also emission risk assessments of the emission points and a permit variation prior to operation with new emission points. Please see the following web links in relation to these points:

[Apply to vary \(change\) a permit for installations](#)

[H1 assessment](#)

Other considerations will be required for a variation of this nature including but not limited to noise assessments.

The operator enquired about utilising dye tracing as a technique on site to assess their drains. Provided that the operator utilises a non-ecotoxic, purpose made dye for these assessments this should not pose a problem. The Lead Brook, the water course to which, the permitted site discharge drains flows across the property of another landowner and which is a protected site. You should inform the landowner and your NRW protected sites officer prior to utilising a tracing dye. Furthermore, to aid dispersion of any dye that discharges to the Lead Brook this work should be carried out on an ebbing tide that is high enough to carry water containing dye from the channel which can become isolated from the River Dee. During the inspection it was suggested to the operator that a camera survey may be beneficial, especially with regard to the inputs to the W2 emission point.

During the visit the site was inspected with no identified issues in either of the papermills or at the effluent treatment plant. It was noted that the concreting works on the top yard had been completed.

The monitoring arrangements for emission points A1a & A1b were discussed. Currently the operator instructs a contractor to erect a scaffold platform for monitoring campaigns. The operator is currently investigating the installation of permanent platforms. Please, consider the contents of the below guidance during these investigations.

[Technical Guidance Note M1 \(Monitoring\)](#)

Q3 Monitoring Returns

NRW received Q3 emissions monitoring by email on 17/10/22 as per permit requirements. Q3 monitoring returns covering the period from 01/07/22 to 30/09/22 were submitted by the required deadline as specified in Permit Condition 4.2.3(a). Monitoring was undertaken as required by Permit Condition 3.3.1, Schedule 3(b), Table S3.2. All reported parameters for emission points W1 & W2 were compliant with the relevant emission limit values specified by Permit Condition 3.1.2 and Schedule 3(b), Table S3.2 of the permit.

The operator also provided the annual Priority Hazardous Pollutants screen in this submission.

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.