

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0040720

Permit being assessed: MP3895FT.

For: Silent Valley Waste Transfer station, held by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

At: Beechwood House, Cwm, Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent, NP3 6PZ.

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

On 18/11/2022 between 09:30 and 11:20.

Parts of permit assessed: 1, 2, 3 and 4

NRW Lead Officer: Jak Rose, accompanied by Carla Curtis.

Report sent to: Noel Chard, Technical Manager on 22/11/2022.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
B3 - Infrastructure - Site drainage engineering (clean and foul)	Action only (X)	
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)	
C4 - General Management - Storage, handling labelling and Segregation	Assessed (A)	
D1 - Incident Management - Site security	Assessed (A)	
F1 - Amenity - Odour	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?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
B3	Clear the drainage channels to prevent surface water pooling in yard. Increase frequency that these are maintained.	31/01/2023

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

This compliance report details the site inspection conducted by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Officers on 18 November 2022 at: Silent Valley Waste Transfer Station, Beechwood House, Cwm, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6PZ- Permit number EPR - EPR/MP3895FT.

Waste Regulation Officers Jak ROSE and Carla CURTIS arrived on site at 09:30 and met with Nr Noel CHARD, Technical Manager. The weather conditions at the time were overcast with intermittent showers.

Officers began the inspection by discussing with Mr CHARD the history of the site and the recent activities since the previous inspection which took place 14 June 2018. Officer ROSE introduced himself as the point of contact for the site going forward.

Status log of the permit

Description	Date	Comments
Waste Management Licence issued SEW/224	10/09/98	Original waste management licence for a Household, Commercial and Industrial Transfer station with composting treatment issued to Silent Valley Waste Services Limited
Variation determined EPR/MP3895FT/V002	30/10/15	Varied, consolidated and updated permit for household, commercial and industrial transfer station with asbestos storage issued, including removal of composting activity (in line with "part surrender" assessment criteria)..
Variation determined EPR/MP3895FT/V003	13/02/17	Varied permit to add a single waste code issued.
Part surrender application EPR/MP3895FT/S004	Duly made 25/09/20	Application to surrender part of the permitted area associated with the activity surrendered as part of V002.
Part surrender determined	30/11/20	Part surrender complete and consolidated form of permit issued.
Application EPR/MP3895FT/T005	Duly made 05/10/22	Application to transfer the permit in full to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.
Transfer determined EPR/MP3895FT	18/10/22	Full transfer of permit complete.

End of introductory note

Site Observations

Officers accompanied Mr CHARD in a vehicle and drove towards the site at the top of the valley. After passing the weighbridge, we entered the main site area (located at the top of the access road) consisting of two buildings and an impermeable outdoor yard. Officers stood outside what is referred to as *Building 1* (**Photo 1**)

Within this building contained residual waste, green waste, co-mingled recycling and bulky waste (e.g. wood, metal, dense plastic) in the right hand corner of the building.

Photo 1 – building 1 with residual waste and some Absorbent Hygiene Products



(AHP)

The building structures appear to be in good condition and the hard standings in the yard area appears to be free of any visible cracking or damage.

B3 - Site drainage engineering (clean and foul) - ACTION ONLY

The drainage channels for the surface water appears to be blocked. The recent heavy rainfall means there is typically more water for the system to deal with. It was acknowledged that these will need to be maintained more frequently to prevent pooling of the surface water in the operational areas of the main site area. **(Photo 2 below)**

Photo 2 – blocked drainage channels outside *Building 1*



ACTION: Clear the drainage channels to prevent surface water pooling in yard. Increase frequency that these are maintained.

DEADLINE: 31 January 2023

Outside of the building were several skips' bins containing inert rubble and WEEE.

From there Officers and Mr CHARD approached *Building 2* which contained the picking and sorting machine. This was in operation at the time and Officers observed the co-mingled plastics and cans (steel and aluminium) being loaded into the hopper. **(Photo 3 below)**

Photo 3 – processing plant in operation during inspection



The plastics in the photo above are baled and taken to the other part of the building used for storage. The material is baled throughout the working day to allow the management of material volumes in the storage bay. The bales are stored undercover in a bay in *Building 2*.

Aerosol cans are extracted from the picking line prior to baling to remove the combustion/explosion hazard from the process. **(Photo 4)**

Photo 4 – aerosols are placed into the bins outside *Building 2*



There were no concerns with amenity such as odours, pests, or noise.

Fire Prevention and Mitigation Plan (FPMP)

The current FPMP dated March 2021 has not been formally reviewed yet. This will be completed in 2023.

Technically Competent Manager (TCM)

Mr CHARD has submitted of his continuing competency and will expire in February 2024.

Waste Returns

These appear to be up to date and correct. Thank you for submitting these at the end of each quarter.

If you have any issues with this report, please contact Waste Regulation Officer Jak Rose at jak.rose@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk or 07866 157281.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to working with the site in the future.

Officers left site at 11:20.

In this document 'Resources Wales' means the Natural Resources Body for Wales established by Article 3 of the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Establishment) order 2012.

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.