

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0041002

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: Site Inspection, Reason: Routine.

On 25/01/2023 between 10:00 and 11:00.

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

NRW Lead Officer: Alex Bowder, accompanied by Alexandra Tennant.

Report sent to: Becky Tucker, Stacey Lewis, Gareth Hill, Technically Competent Manager, Business Director and Environmental Consultant on 27/01/2023.

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)	
C1 - General Management - Staff competency/training	Assessed (A)	
C2 - General Management - Management system and operating procedures	Assessed (A)	
C3 - General Management - Materials acceptance	Assessed (A)	
C4 - General Management - Storage, handling labelling and Segregation	Assessed (A)	
D1 - Incident Management - Site security	Assessed (A)	
D2 - Incident Management - Accidents, emergency and incident planning	Assessed (A)	
F1 - Amenity - Odour	Assessed (A)	
F2 - Amenity - Noise	Assessed (A)	
F3 - Amenity - Dust/fibres/particulates and litter	Assessed (A)	
G4 - Monitoring and Records, Maintenance and Reporting - Reporting and notification to Natural Resources Wales	Action only (X)	

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
G4	Please would the operator send copies of the past 10 consignment notes completed for waste acceptance.	03/02/2023

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 handover inspection conducted by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Officers on Wednesday 25 January 2023 at S L Recycling Limited, Unit 1, Pontyfelin Industrial Estate, Pontypool, NP4 0DQ - Permit number **EPR-BB3299FN**.*

Senior Regulation Officer Alex BOWDER and Hazardous Waste Officer Alex TENNANT attended S L Recycling Ltd at 10:00 to conduct a handover inspection of the permitted site. The inspection was conducted in Quarter 4 of compliance year 2022-23.

Site Manager & TCM Becky Tucker and Environmental Consultant Gareth Hill were present on site, who accompanied Officers around the permitted boundary. Weather conditions were mild and overcast at the time of inspection.

PREVIOUS INSPECTION COMPLIANCE ACTIONS

ACTION DETAILS	
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.	Complete
2. Submit timescales for the purchase and installation of pre-shredder equipment.	Complete
3. Continue to manage compliant storage levels and reasonable stockpile heights to safeguard against fire risk and visual pollution.	Complete

No condition breaches were scored against the permit on this inspection.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND WASTE ACTIVITIES

Officers entered the site and signed into the office diary. An introduction to the new Regulatory Officer Alex TENNANT was given, followed by a general discussion about site activities since the last inspection. Officers touched on the last compliance audit report and completion of its requested actions. This was largely with regard to the installation/operation of the pre-shredder and its improvements to the metal shredding process.

No deflagrations have occurred at the site since the last inspection in 2022, which demonstrates a clear improvement on permit compliance for waste treatment. The bespoke permit application that has been submitted was also discussed during the introduction.

METAL RECYCLING

The Operator continues to deposit waste metal around the shredder to act as dynamic barrier. Reminders were given to ensure the wall material is turned over so that wastes are not stored for longer than permitted or degrade in anyway. Through acoustic noise assessments (conducted via third parties), the Operator has identified a noise source pathway towards the north-east site boundary where the metal pile walling ends, allowing space for noise to propagate through the gap. Following this, an acoustic wall is in the process of being constructed, which was said to be around 6m high when completed.

A new Noise Impact Assessment has been submitted to NRW that has considered the operational of the pre-shredder as a possible addition to the background/ambient noise - this will be assessed in due course.

No issued were reported with the weighbridge, site security, or the depositing of wastes. Waste metals were stored in separated in reasonable volumes. It was noted that the aluminium bay had been removed - please ensure that the Site Map is updated accordingly and reflects the current operational plans/work areas.

The Operator was reminded to keep stockpiles to the **4m height limit** and follow its routine waste management procedures, which were compliant at the time of inspection.



Image 1 - showing primary waste metal stockpile stored at 4m in height

METAL SHREDDER AND DEFLAGRATIONS

The metal shredder was not in operation at the time of the visit. When operational, it would typically run from 08:30 until 16:00.

Since the compliance audit conducted in July 2022, the operator has not experienced a deflagration within the metal shredder. Given the frequency of the events occurring in summer 2022, this is large improvement. Officers spoke about how this is a good example of following regulatory advice, which can improve site procedures (and compliance) to obtain an environmental outcome.

The operator has tightened its control measures, and purchased and installed a pre-shredder unit, which will assist the overall quality of the product. The operator should continue to conduct strict segregation methods and pre-treatment activities to ensure any unshreddables are identified and removed accordingly. The Quarantine area contained recently extracted bottles and canisters (that have the potential to cause a deflagration), as seen in image 2.



Image 2 - showing extracted bottles and canisters from waste streams quarantined in a cage

The operator continues to issue warning letters and strict penalties/fines and to all customers who send such waste types to the site. Whilst the operator cannot completely eliminate the risk of deflagrations from occurring, it should continue to tightly follow its procedures to prevent such incidents from happening in future.

Pre-shredder equipment

The Operator installed a pre-shredder - *Model: Henschel Three Shaft Pre-Shredder, 250kw motor* - in late 2022. This was ordered to assist with general metal processing, and as part of deflagration prevention until a newer pre-shredder unit is built and delivered to the site – a DANIELI ZDS 220-600 is expected to arrive around June 2023. Specification document for this equipment has been sent to the regulator. Pre-shredding the metal should generate a better quality fragment.

The Noise Management Plan and EMS will need to be updated to cover the pre-shredder and its operation.



Image 3 – showing pre-shredder equipment installed and in-use on site

Deflagration Management Plan (DMP)

This document was submitted to NRW on 11 October 2022. It contains nine sections covering the operation of the plant, metal preparations, and staff requirements. The Operator must ensure that this document is referenced in training and all relevant staff are aware of it.

At times, the DMP sections of the document are basic and could contain more information/detail or expansion. This will be looked at later in the year.

FIRE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION

The operator had created adequate separation between deposited wastes and the shredder plant. Access was afforded around the back and side of the shredder along the fence boundary. There was suitable quarantine area available on site in the event of an emergency incident.

Spoke off new practices being conducted by other waste companies in South Wales, involving installing a lockbox containing crib sheet summaries of key FPMP information - i.e. fire hydrants locations and pressures - that the SWFRS are aware of and could easily (and quickly) access in the event of an emergency fire incident. The Operator commented

that this could be something to work towards in future.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND DRAINAGE

The operator was repairing areas of flooring at the time on inspection. Mentioned that the site needs to carry out such top layer reflooring works in sections to allow recycling activities to continue. There were other areas noted to be fractured from heavy plant use - stated that these were scheduled for repair when weather and time permits.

The operator is in the process of installing acoustic walling for noise mitigation purposes. Holes for the beam foundations were dug out. Ensure that run-off is directed away from any exposed areas of yard surface to safeguard against contaminants percolating through ground layers.

TRANSFER STATION

Mixed municipal waste was stored within the zap shelter, although was noted to be protruding out slightly. Operator reminded to ensure this waste is always under cover, as per permit conditions - stated that would be fully actioned by the end of the day.

Commentary provided on how this material has to ability to self-heat and associated fire risk. The turnover of this waste stockpile is very important and strict management on volume control to minimise any combustion. NRW would ask the operator to think about what further fire mitigation could be implemented by the means of temperature monitoring and thermal cameras, for instance. To detect any potential increase in temperature at the earliest stage.

Officers witnessed foam-like material with metal lining stored near the shredder and across other areas of the site. Stated that the site would remove the metal components and then add the foam to general waste, to bulk up its calorific value as the material was destined for incineration - via energy from waste (Trident Way).

Officers also inspected inside the warehouses/vehicle repair areas. Cardboard was present, which was baled on pallets - all stored undercover. Water-based emulsion paint cans in IBCs were again on site.

Some wood waste was present on site - this is sent to a wood recycling operator for further processing. The Operator voiced no intention to chip or treat wood on site going forward, leaving the primary focus (and room) to metal recycling.



Image 4 - showing transfer station zap shelter filled with mixed municipal waste

END-OF-LIFE VEHICLE DEPOLLUTION

Officers were shown the storage tanks to the rear of the depollution bay. Oils and fuels extracted from depollution are either reused or removed by an appropriate contractor - consignment notes should be completed for such transactions.

Tyres are sent to Welsh third party contractor. There were no issues noted with the operation of the ELV area at the time of inspection.

WASTE RETURNS

Hazardous waste consignment notes are required to document any transfer of any hazardous wastes due to the nature of risk associated with such materials in-line with The Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005.

Non-hazardous waste tickets were not inspected during the visit.

ACTION

Please would the operator send the past 10 consignment notes completed for waste acceptance at the New Inn site.

Reminder

Please ensure that the operator's 2022 annual waste return spreadsheets are submitted by **30 January 2023**, as per condition 4.2.2:

"Within one month of the end of each year, the operator shall submit to Natural Resources

Wales using the form made available for the purpose, the information specified on the form relating to the site and the waste accepted and removed from it during the previous quarter”.

PERMIT APPLICATION

The Operator has recently submitted a Schedule 5 Notice in response to application, including another amended Noise Impact Assessment for waste activities operated outside. The Permitting department are now assessing the amended documents and will be in touch in due course.

If you have any issues with this report, please contact Senior Regulation Officer Alex BOWDER at Alex.Bowder@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk or Alex TENNANT at Alexandra.Tennant@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Thank you.

In this document ‘Natural Resources Wales’ means the Natural Resource 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.