

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0041308

Permit being assessed: BX3376IG.

For: Waun-y-Pound EPR/BX3376IG, held by CONTINENTAL TEVES UK LTD

At: Waun-y-Pound Industrial Estate , Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent, NP23 6PL.

Type of assessment carried out: Report/Data Review, Reason: Routine.

On 07/02/2023.

Parts of permit assessed: Schedule 1 Notification - coolant spill

NRW Lead Officer: Rebecca Green.

Report sent to: Philip French, Head of Plating & Environmental Management on 28/02/2023.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
C1 - General Management - Staff competency/training	C3 Minor	2.3.3 Training and supervision
E4 - Emissions - Sewer	C3 Minor	2.2.5 Fugitive Emission to Sewer
C2 - General Management - Management system and operating procedures	Action only (X)	
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)	
A1 - Specified by permit	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
2	8

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
C1	Improve training and ensure adequate supervision	31/03/2023
E4	Improve supervision by contractor and Continental personnel. Ensure signage is clear.	Already completed
C2	Ensure contractors are properly trained in waste disposal.	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

On 24th January 2023 Natural Resources Wales (NRW) received a Schedule 1 Part A Notification from Continental Teves informing them that there had been a release of ~800L of coolant oil to sewer. Welsh Water were also informed of the incident. Part B of the Notification was received on 3rd February 2023.

As a result, two Cat 3 non-compliances have been issued.

Continental conducted an 8D investigation and identified the following as the causes of the incident. An operator, new to the cutting machine area, was filling the coolant tank. The machine was not turned off properly and so the tank overfilled, spilling about 800L of coolant oil onto the floor in an unbunded area. The area supervisor was off-site at the time.

The cleaning contractors cleaned the area using a ride-on floor cleaner. The tank was emptied into a sluice which was connected to the foul sewer.

The root causes were identified as a lack of training and supervision for both the contractors and the operator and poor or obstructed signage.

Welsh Water commented that, if the weather had been wet and a downstream storm overflow had been operating, there could have been a pollution incident. Fortunately, the weather was dry at the time.

This is the second time that contractors' actions have caused an incident (see CAR_NRW0037600 January 2021). Procedures were reviewed and improved after the first incident, but it appears that Continental need to carry out a much wider review and improvement of their Control of Contractors procedures.

Action 1: Continental to review all their procedures for the Control of Contractors for all aspects of the operation and update and improve them as necessary. NRW to be informed of the outcome by 12th April 2023. The procedures will be audited in the future.

Continental recognised that lack of training in spill control procedures was a root cause and delivered training to contractors and relevant Continental personnel on 2nd February. Signage has been clarified and improved.

Actions E4 and C2 above have been completed and are therefore closed.

Training of operators on new machines and their supervision do not appear to have been addressed yet.

Action C1 (above): Provide NRW with evidence that training and supervision for operators in areas new to them, or for new operators, has been improved. Due date 31st March 2023.

NRW were informed of the incident quickly and Continental took prompt action to identify and rectify the root causes. There could have been a more serious environmental consequence at the wastewater treatment works had the weather been wet. Continental's control of contractors has caused a previous incident and so NRW feel that the issuing of two non-compliances is appropriate.
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.