

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0041792

Permit being assessed: EP3935UC.

For: Waunarlwydd Works, held by Real Alloy UK Limited

At: Waunarlwydd Works, Westfield Industrial Park, Waunarlwydd, Swansea, SA5 4SF.

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

On 24/03/2023 between 10:00 and 14:00.

Parts of permit assessed: See Part 4

NRW Lead Officer: Michael Launder, accompanied by Liane Bacon-Weekes.

Report sent to: Helen Williams, SHE Manager on 12/05/2023.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
B4 - Infrastructure - Containment of stored materials	Assessed (A)	
C3 - General Management - Materials acceptance	Assessed (A)	
H2 - Resource Efficiency - Energy efficiency	Assessed (A)	
C4 - General Management - Storage, handling labelling and Segregation	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
C4	Operator to provide quarterly update to Natural Resources Wales on stored tonnage of slag and planned shipments over the upcoming quarter.	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

Attendees

- Helen Williams - HSE Manager, Real Alloy
- Ken Britz - Plant Manager, Real Alloy
- Michael Launder - Senior Industry Regulation Officer, Natural Resources Wales
- Liane Bacon-Weekes - Hazardous Waste Lead Specialist, Natural Resources Wales

Introduction

This Compliance Assessment Report was completed following a site visit by Michael Launder and Liane Bacon-Weekes on 24 March 2023. The aim of the visit was site and process familiarisation for the new lead officer for the site, and to inspect the storage arrangements for the aluminium salt slag, a hazardous waste generated by the site. The visit did not include an audit of waste procedures and management, this will be carried out at a later date.

Site History and Current Operations

The Plant Manager provided an overview of the history of the site, current site operations and processes, and progress with the divestment of Real Alloy Swansea as part of a merger of the parent company with Speira. The CAPEX funding for a shredder and baler remain in place as part of the divestment, but await a decision from the likely buyer of Real Alloy Swansea and French sister site RVA, the French waste recycling company Aurea.

The operator provided a tour of the site processes, showing the rotary furnace in operation, the sample furnace for testing incoming raw materials, and the incoming material storage including used beverage can (UBC) bales and other aluminium scrap.



External UBC storage area

The site permit has recently been varied (EP3935UC/V008, issued on 21/02/2023) to include the operation of the shredder and baler. The proposed area for these was visited and was seen to be sectioned off from the non-permit areas of the building and separated from the salt slag storage area. The operation of these is subject to post-commencement conditions IC7a and IC7b (Table S1.3), which require the submission of an amended noise impact assessment and noise mitigation plan. The mitigation plan is to incorporate any additional mitigation measures if the impact assessment noise levels exceed those predicted in the V008 application.

Salt Slag Storage and Management

Prior to shipping to mainland Europe for recovery, the site stores waste salt slag produced on site in a dedicated area. This is fully under cover to prevent contact with water, which causes the evolution of highly flammable gases.

During 2022, in response to non-compliance, the Norwegian Environment Agency suspended the permit of the Real Alloy Raudsand site, at the time, the only recovery site for Real Alloy Swansea's salt slag. This suspension also had the effect of revoking Trans-frontier Shipment (TFS) consents, including the permission for Real Alloy Swansea to ship salt slag to Norway. While Real Alloy Raudsand worked to resolve the non-compliances, Real Alloy Swansea immediately re-applied for a new TFS.

Anticipating missing several monthly 3,000 tonne shipments of salt slag, the operator approached

NRW requesting advice about an expected exceedance of the 15,000 tonne upper limit of salt slag storage in the permit (EP3935UC/V007). The operator was advised to apply to vary the permit to account for the expected exceedance and also to look to secure other processing options in the meantime.

The permit variation (EP3935UC/V008) was issued in February 2023, and allowed a total storage of 25,000 tonnes of salt slag. During the site visit on 24 March 2023, the storage area was seen to be watertight and segregated into areas of lump slag, processed slag (ready to ship) and recovered scrap steel. The volume stored at the time of the visit was 15,895 tonnes. The site generates c. 2,700 tonnes of salt slag per month and currently ships c. 3,000 tonnes per month for recovery. During the visit, the operator presented a system of tracking the tonnage of stored salt slag, used as a Key Performance Indicator by site management.



Salt slag storage area - lump slag in foreground, processed slag in background

As previously communicated with the operator, to allow for headroom in the event of any future issues with shipping for recovery, Natural Resources Wales expect the current volume of stored salt slag to represent the peak for normal operations. Real Alloy have outlined a plan for utilising other mainland European sites for recovery, with TFS applications in progress. By utilising these other sites, the trajectory of generation and shipping for recovery is expected to bring the stored volume of salt slag to c. 5,000 tonnes by the end of 2024.

Action: Operator to provide quarterly update to Natural Resources Wales on stored tonnage of slag and planned shipments over the upcoming quarter.

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.