

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0042537

**Permit being assessed:** BB3790FX.

**For:** ALUK (GB) LTD, **held by:** ALUK (GB) Ltd

**At:** Aluk GB Ltd, Newhouse Farm Industrial Estate, Mathern, Chepstow, Monmouthshire, NP16 6UD.

**Type of assessment:** Report/Data Review,

**Reason:** Routine.

**On:** 27/09/2023.

**Parts of permit assessed:** 3.5 Monitoring.

**NRW Lead Officer:** Rebecca Green.

**Report sent to:** Toby Ambler, Head of Health, Safety and Environment, on 29/09/2023.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR1A - Management - General management	Assessed (A)	
IR2C - Operations - Operating techniques	Assessed (A)	
IR3E - Emissions and monitoring - Monitoring	Assessed (A)	
IR4B - Information - Reporting	Assessed (A)	

Result types are explained in more detail in the 'Important Information' section below.

Total 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**

ALUK requested a Teams meeting with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to discuss their proposed changes to the sampling methodology, analysis and reporting of aluminium (Al) discharges to sewer from the effluent treatment plant (ETP).

The meeting took place on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and TA, Head of Health, Safety and Environment, ALUK; AL, Continuous Improvement Lead, ALUK and Rebecca Green, Site Regulatory Officer, NRW, were present.

ALUK have developed an in-house analysis method for total Al in the discharge to sewer. Results from the in-house method have been compared with those from an ISO17025 accredited lab and a good correlation factor of 0.69 was obtained. This could be further improved by ensuring that volumetric glassware is used in all steps of the analysis and by calculating the uncertainty for the whole analytical process.

This method will be used to measure the ETP's performance by taking daily spot samples and will replace the in-line Al monitor as a process control measure. The in-line Al monitor will be removed in due course.

Unfortunately this in-house analysis method cannot be used for the quarterly monitoring results reported to NRW as ALUK's laboratory is not ISO17025 accredited.

ALUK are planning to install a composite sampler, with chiller, which will collect samples over a week. A sample will be taken weekly and either analysed by ALUK's contracted, accredited laboratory or by Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) and these results will be used for reporting the quarterly monitoring results. ALUK should ensure that the contents of the sampling vessel are thoroughly mixed before taking a representative sample for analysis.

This new regime will come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 and will comply better with the monitoring requirements given in the permit.

In the meantime ALUK will continue to take spot samples from S1 for analysis by DCWW or ALUK's accredited laboratory and use these for reporting the quarterly monitoring results.

NRW are fully supportive of these changes to the sampling, process control and analysis methods, believing that they will give a more realistic measure of ALUK's discharges of Al to sewer.

**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.

**If your assessment result in Section 1 is suspended, what does this mean?**

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 compliance criteria (used in section 1 and 2):**

**1. Management**

- IR1A – General management
- IR1B – Finance (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR1C – Energy efficiency
- IR1D - Efficient use of raw materials
- IR1E - Avoidance, recovery and disposal of wastes produced by the activities
- IR1F - Multiple operator installations

**2. Operations**

- IR2A – Permitted activities
- IR2B – The site
- IR2C – Operating techniques
- IR2D – Technical requirements
- IR2E – Improvement programme
- IR2F – Pre-operational conditions
- IR2G – Landfill engineering (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR2H – Waste acceptance (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR2I – Leachate levels (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR2J – Closure and aftercare (only applicable to Landfill)
- IR2K – Landfill gas management (only applicable to Landfill)

**3. Emission and Monitoring**

- IR3A – Emissions to water, air or land
- IR3B – Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits
- IR3C – Odour
- IR3D – Noise and vibration
- IR3E – Monitoring
- IR3F – Pests
- IR3G – Air quality management plans
- IR3H – Monitoring for the purposes of the Industrial Emissions Directive (this heading includes Large Combustion Plants)
- IR3I – Fire

**4. Information**

- IR4A – Records
- IR4B – Reporting
- IR4C – Notification

**Enforcement response**

Any non-compliance with a permit condition 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 twenty 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 to 18:00), or email [enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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.