

Natural Resources Wales Permitting Decisions

**Tata Steel UK Limited
(Cold Mill Effluent Treatment Plant)**

Decision Document

Application for a Full Transfer

The application number is: PAN-023284

The permit variation number is: EPR/AB3192HQ/T001

The Transferor is: Industrial Chemicals Limited

The Transferee is: Tata Steel UK Limited

The Installation is located at: Cold Mill Effluent Treatment Plant, Port Talbot Steelworks, Port Talbot, SA13 2NG

Purpose of this document

This decision document:

- explains how the application has been determined
- provides a record of the decision-making process
- shows how all relevant factors have been taken into account
- justifies the specific conditions in the permit other than those in our generic permit template.

Unless the decision document specifies otherwise, we have accepted the applicant's proposals.

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1. Executive summary

1.1. Application summary

Application has been made to transfer the environmental permit for Cold Mill Effluent Treatment Plant from Industrial Chemicals Limited (the “transferor”) to Tata Steel UK Limited (the “transferee”) in full.

1.2. Our decision

We have decided to grant the transfer for Cold Mill Effluent Treatment Plant from Industrial Chemicals Limited to Tata Steel UK Limited.

We consider in reaching that decision we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements and that the permit will ensure that the appropriate level of environmental protection is provided.

2. Receipt of the application

The application was accepted as duly made on 18/09/2023. This means we considered it was in the correct form and contained sufficient information for us to begin our determination, but not that it necessarily contained all the information we would need to complete that determination.

3. Confidential information

The applicant made a claim for no claim for commercial confidentiality, and we have not received information in relation to the application that appears to be confidential in relation to any party.

4. Legislation

The transfer will be granted under Regulation 21 of the EPR. The Environmental Permitting regime is a legal vehicle which delivers most of the relevant legal requirements for activities falling within its scope. In particular, the regulated facility is:

- an *installation* as described by the IED;
- subject to aspects of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which also have to be addressed.
- Any other relevant legislation.

We address the legal requirements directly where relevant in the body of this document. NRW is satisfied that the decision on this application is consistent with its general purpose of pursuing the sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR) in relation to Wales and applying the principles of SMNR. In particular, NRW acknowledges that it is a principle of sustainable management to take action to prevent significant damage to ecosystems. We consider that, in granting the transfer a high level of protection will be maintained for the environment and human health through the operation of the Installation in accordance with the permit conditions. NRW is satisfied that this decision is compatible with its general purpose of pursuing the sustainable management of natural resources in relation to Wales and applying the principles of sustainable management of natural resources.

5. Operation of the installation

5.2. Operator competence

The new operator will be is the sole operator of the Installation.

We are satisfied that the new operator is the person who will have control over the operation of the Installation after the permit is transferred and that they will be able to operate the Installation so as to comply with the conditions included in the permit. The decision was taken in accordance with EPR RGN 1 Understanding the meaning of operator¹.

¹ [RGN 1 Understanding the meaning of 'operator' \(naturalresources.wales\)](#)

The new operator has declared they have no current or past bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding against them.

There is no known reason to consider that the new operator will not be financially able to comply with the permit. The decision was taken in accordance with RGN 5 on Operator Competence.

Relevant Convictions

The new operator has declared they have no relevant convictions. NRW's COLINS Database has been checked to ensure to confirm are no relevant convictions. No relevant convictions were found.

Technical competence

Technical competency is required for the activities being transferred. The new operator has nominated a member of staff who has the appropriate WAMITAB certification and is a Corporate Member of CIWM.

The new operator satisfies the criteria in RGN 5 on Operator Competence²

5.3. Environmental Management System

The new operator has stated in the application that they will implement an Environmental Management System (EMS) that will meet the requirements for an EMS in our "How to comply with your environmental permit guidance"³. The applicant has submitted a summary of the EMS with their application.

We have reviewed the application and are satisfied that appropriate management systems and management structures will be in place for this Installation, and that sufficient resources are available to the operator to ensure compliance with all the permit conditions.

² [regulatory-guidance-note-5-operator-competence.pdf \(naturalresources.wales\)](#)

³ [Natural Resources Wales / Guidance to help you comply with your environmental permit](#)

6. The Permit Conditions

There have been no changes to the permit's conditions as a result of the transfer.

7. OPRA

The OPRA score has not been changed as a result of the transfer and remains as 135. This will form the basis for ongoing subsistence fees.