

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0043093

**Permit being assessed:** BP3635MR.

**For:** Port Talbot Steel Works , **held by:** Harsco Metals Group Ltd

**At:** Port Talbot Work , Port Talbot, PORT TALBOT, Neath Port Talbot, SA13 2NG.

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

**Reason:** Routine.

**On:** 28/12/2023.

**Parts of permit assessed:** Q3 2023 Monitoring Returns .

**NRW Lead Officer:** Rhodri Morgan.

**Report sent to:** Paul Morgan , Environment Health and Safety Manager, on 28/12/2023.

### 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)	
IR3A - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water, air or land	C3 Minor	3.1.2
IR3E - Emissions and monitoring - Monitoring	C3 Minor	3.5.1

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

Total 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
IR3A	Ensure emissions from the Site are compliant with the emission limits listed within the permit.	Already completed
IR3E	Ensure emissions are monitored to the frequency specified by the permit condition.	Already completed

Compliance 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.

**You are non-compliant with your permit.**

**At this time, we are issuing you with a warning for the non-compliance recorded above. Warnings may influence future enforcement response for continued or further non-compliance.**

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

The main purpose of the Harsco Metals Group (Harsco) activities at the Port Talbot installation are to serve the Tata Steel UK Limited (TSUK) steelworks processes (EPR/ BL7108IM).

These activities are directly associated with iron and steel production and include slag handling, metal recovery, iron plating, scrap metal management, metal cutting and lancing and waste oxide briquetting. Most of these activities are undertaken within Harsco's ring-fenced permitted area, but some take place within shared areas of responsibility.

#### **Purpose of Compliance Assessment**

The following monitoring returns and reports have been assessed within this Compliance Assessment Report (CAR):

- Quarter 3 (Q3) July to September 2023 Monitoring Returns

#### **Compliance Assessment**

##### **Q3 2023 Monitoring Returns**

Harsco submitted the Q3 2023 monitoring returns on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023, which is within the specified reporting window, representing compliance with the permit condition (4.2.2).

##### **AS3 – Lancing Booth**

The continuous particulate matter (PM) results for the monitoring period have been submitted with three exceedances of the 20 mg/m<sup>3</sup> hourly average emission limit recorded.

A Schedule 5 notification submitted on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 has attributed the exceedances with the processing of a particular type of scrap material. Awareness training has been provided to site personnel; explaining the potential emission risk of the scrap material.

**The breach of the PM emission limit is in contrary to condition 3.1.2 of the permit. As a result of this, a non-**

**compliance score of C3 has been allocated to the breach.**

Monitoring results were not available for a number of days throughout the monitoring period; including four days when the lancing booth was operational (25<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023).

The operator was unable to determine the root cause of the monitoring failure.

There were no reported triggers of the lancing booths PM local warning system; suggesting the emission limit was not exceeded.

**The failure to monitor PM continuously throughout the monitoring period is contrary to condition 3.5.1. In accordance with non-compliance scoring guidelines a non-compliance score of C3 has been allocated.**

AS4 – Slag Tipping Area

Visual observations of Desulphurisation Slag pot tipping have been provided in table form, with tipping assessment numbers based on the Ringlemann chart. The majority (78.9%) of the tipping assessments have been classed as a shade 2, which is consistent with previous monitoring submissions.

Operational parameters for emission points and metal recovery have also been provided for the quarter, in compliance with permit condition 4.2.2.

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.