

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043089

Permit being assessed: WP3836ZF.

For: Wrexham Clinical Waste Treatment Facility (Incinerator), **held by:** Tradebe Healthcare National Limited

At: Wrexham Clinical Waste Treatment Facility (Incinerator) Marlborough Road , Wrexham Industrial Estate, WREXHAM, Clwyd, LL13 9RJ.

Type of assessment: Report/Data Review,

Reason: Routine.

On: 28/12/2023.

Parts of permit assessed: Improvement Conditions.

NRW Lead Officer: Rebecca Harwood.

Report sent to: Alan Rhodes, SHEQ Lead, 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
IR2E - Operations - Improvement programme	Action only (X)	

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?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
IR2E	see text below	31/03/2024

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.

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

This Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) has been raised in response to the submission of Improvement Conditions IC11-IC17 by the Operator as required by the permit variation dated 22/12/2022.

IC11 - The operator shall submit to Natural Resources Wales an assessment of the impacts to air quality and habitats on the worst case use of the plant's emergency release valve (ERV) considering both duration and frequency of events based on operation of the ERV at the installation over the last 5 years. Where the assessment uses data from sources other than measured data at this incineration plant, the operator shall provide a justification.

A report was initially submitted to NRW on 30/06/2023 with further information provided on 13/07/2023. This has been reviewed by NRW's Air Quality Team. Based on the information provided NRW are of the opinion that there is unlikely to be an exceedance of air quality standards at sensitive receptors. It is noted that mercury slightly exceeds the 10% screening threshold for short-term emissions but did not exceed the recently updated EAL itself. No further action is required at this stage and the requirements of IC11 have been met.

IC12 - The operator shall carry out a study to determine if additional measures will be needed at the installation to meet the standards specified within BAT Conclusion of the Waste Incineration BREF Document (EU 2019): BAT 29. The study shall also contain a description of how the measures will be operated on an ongoing basis to minimise NOx emissions, including target emission limit values for NOx and for any reagent used (including process optimisation and monitoring). A written report of the study shall be submitted to Natural Resources Wales.

A report was submitted to NRW on 01/09/2023 following the NOx abatement trials that had been undertaken at the incinerator. The report suggests that the injection of SNCR into the secondary combustion chamber reduces the levels of NOx emissions. Subsequently the Operator has submitted a permit variation to install SNCR at Wrexham. This was submitted on 09/10/2023 and is currently in NRW's permitting queue. IC12 will be reviewed as part of the variation determination. The requirements of IC12 have been met.

IC13 - The operator shall calculate the boiler efficiency using the method set out in the general considerations section of the BAT conclusions and submit details of the calculation to Natural Resources Wales. The calculation shall use the boiler efficiency determination guidance (or other methodology as agreed in writing with Natural Resources Wales) to calculate boiler efficiency which can then be used to calculate Qth.

The Operator submitted their report relating to boiler efficiency to NRW on the 26/06/2023. The report stated that the boiler efficiency was 75%. This sits within the BAT specified range of acceptance and therefore no further information is required. The submitted report

provides further assessment and opportunities to improve efficiency that the Operator could undertake and these should be reviewed in the future. No further action is required at this stage and the requirements of IC13 have been met.

IC14 - The operator shall submit an Other than normal operating conditions (OTNOC) management plan to Natural Resources Wales for approval.

The Operator submitted an early draft of their OTNOC management plan to NRW on 23/02/2023. Since then, guidance has been provided that sets out the UK Regulators' definition of OTNOC. The Operator should therefore review and update their OTNOC management plan in relation to this guidance. NRW will review the OTNOC management plan during Q2/Q3 2024 to determine whether the requirements of IC14 have been met.

IC15 - The Operator shall submit a written report to Natural Resources Wales for written approval on all discharges to surface waters and/or sewer from the site, you must provide information for priority hazardous substances and any other relevant substances.

The Operator submitted their report including H1 assessment to NRW on 26/06/2023. Priority hazardous substances have been screened out during the second test which determines process contribution as a proportion of the EQS. The requirements of IC15 have been met.

IC16 - The Operator shall submit a written report to Natural Resources Wales for written approval on the baseline conditions of soil and groundwater at the installation. The report shall contain the information necessary to determine the state of soil and groundwater contamination so as to make a quantified comparison with the state upon definitive cessation of activities provided for in Article 22(3) of the IED and provided in accordance with the European Commission Guidance concerning the baseline reports under Article 22(2) of Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions. The report shall contain information, supplementary to that already provided in the application Site Condition Report, needed to meet the information requirements of Article 22(2) of the IED.

The Operator submitted their baseline report to NRW on 26/06/2023. This has been reviewed internally by NRW's Geoscience Team. The information submitted does not fully satisfy the requirements of the IC as the report submitted is a proposal as to how the Operator seeks to meet the IC; the Operator has not yet carried out the site investigation to gain the information required to satisfy the condition. Further work is required before IC16 can be discharged. NRW will discuss the additional work required with the Operator during Q1 2024.

IC17 - The operator shall submit a residues management plan to Natural Resources Wales for written approval.

The Operator submitted their residues management plan to NRW on 26/06/2023. Having reviewed the document NRW have several queries to discuss with the Operator. NRW will discuss these with the Operator during Q1 2024.

In summary the following Improvement Conditions have been met: IC11, IC12, IC13, IC15. IC12 is also subject to the recently submitted permit variation. IC14 will be reviewed during a future site visit. IC16 and IC17 require further work following discussions with NRW.

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 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.