

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043146

Permit being assessed: AB3192HQ.

For: Cold Mill Effluent Treatment Plant, **held by:** Tata Steel

At: Tata Steel Port Talbot Works, Port Talbot, Neath Port Talbot, SA13 2NG.

Type of assessment: Report/Data Review,

Reason: Routine.

On: 12/01/2024.

Parts of permit assessed: Improvement Conditions.

NRW Lead Officer: Rhodri Morgan.

Report sent to: Nathan Ace , Head of Environment TSUK Operations, on 15/01/2024.

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)	
IR2E - Operations - Improvement programme	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

The Cold Mill Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) within the Port Talbot Integrated Steelworks treats ferrous chloride solution from the cold rolled steel pickling process.

The EPR permit (AB3192HQ) for the ETP was transferred from ICL to Tata Steel UK Limited (TSUK) on the 20th November 2023. TSUK intend to consolidate the ETP permit with the wider Port Talbot Integrated Steelworks installation permit (BL7108IM) during an impending permit variation.

The improvement conditions listed under Table S1.3 of the ETP permit (AB3192HQ) were retained following the permit transfer. These were initially included within the ETP permit following the publication of the revised Best Available Techniques (BAT) Reference Document (BRef) for Waste Treatment.

Table S1.3 has been replicated below:

Table S1.3 Improvement programme requirements		
Reference	Requirement	Date
IC1	The Operator shall ensure that a member of staff employed by Industrial Chemicals Limited successfully obtains certification of technical competence (for example, by successfully completing the WAMITAB Level 4 qualification). The Operator shall supply copies of the award certificates to NRW to demonstrate competence.	Within one year of the issue of the permit
IC2	The operator shall submit a written report to Natural Resources Wales a written procedure(s) describing how operations on site which involve Tata Steel are managed. The report should include: Contractual agreement in place between ICL and Tata Steel. Detailing roles and responsibilities in relation to the Cold Mill Effluent Treatment Plant.	Within 1 month of the issue of the permit
IC3	The operator shall submit to Natural Resources Wales a written procedure(s) describing how they intend to meet the following BAT requirements in accordance with requirements specified within BAT Conclusion of the Waste Treatment BREF Document (EU 2018): BAT 1 Environmental Management System: (VII) Following development of cleaner technologies (VIII) Whole life cycle considerations when designing a new plant i.e. impacts from eventual decommissioning and throughout its operating life (IX) Regular sectoral bench marking (X) Waste stream management (BAT 2) (XI) Inventory of waste water & waste gas streams (BAT 3) (XII) Residues Management Plan – S6.5	17 th February 2022 or otherwise agreed in writing with Natural Resources Wales
IC4	The operator shall submit to Natural Resources Wales a written procedure(s) describing how they intend to meet the following BAT requirements in accordance with requirements specified within BAT Conclusion of the Waste Treatment BREF Document (EU 2018): BAT 2 Improving overall environmental performance: (a) Set up and implement waste characterisation & pre-acceptance	17 th February 2022 or otherwise agreed in writing with Natural

	procedures • (b) Set up and implement waste acceptance procedures • (c) Set up and implement a waste tracking system & inventory • (d) Set up and implement an output quality management system	Resources Wales	
IC5	The operator shall submit to Natural Resources Wales a written procedure(s) describing how they intend to meet the following BAT requirements in accordance with requirements specified within BAT Conclusion of the Waste Treatment BREF Document (EU 2018): BAT 3 (i) information about the characteristics of the waste to be treated and the waste treatment process including (b) description of process-integrated techniques and waste/waste gas treatment at source including their performances (ii) Information about the characteristics of waste water streams. (iii) Information about the characteristics about waste gas streams	17 th February 2022 or otherwise agreed in writing with Natural Resources Wales	
IC6	The operator shall submit to Natural Resources Wales a written procedure(s) describing how they intend to meet the following BAT requirements in accordance with requirements specified within BAT Conclusion of the Waste Treatment BREF Document (EU 2018): BAT 18 Techniques to prevent, or where not practicable reduce noise and vibration emissions.	17 th February 2022 or otherwise agreed in writing with Natural Resources Wales	
IC7	The operator shall submit to Natural Resources Wales a written procedure(s) describing how they intend to meet the following BAT requirements in accordance with requirements specified within BAT Conclusion of the Waste Treatment BREF Document (EU 2018): BAT 19 In order to optimise water consumption, reduce the volume of waste water generated and prevent or where not practicable reduce emissions to soil and water.	17 th February 2022 or otherwise agreed in writing with Natural Resources Wales	
IC8	The operator shall submit to Natural Resources Wales a written procedure(s) describing how they intend to meet the following BAT requirements in accordance with requirements specified within BAT Conclusion of the Waste Treatment BREF Document (EU 2018): BAT 23 Energy Efficiency: In order to use energy efficiently, BAT is to use both of the techniques below: • Energy Efficiency Plan. • Energy balance record.	17 th February 2022 or otherwise agreed in writing with Natural Resources Wales	
IC9	Where your activity involves the use, production or release of relevant hazardous substances (as defined in Article 3(18) of the Industrial Emissions	17 th February 2022 or	

Directive) carry out a risk assessment considering the possibility of soil and groundwater contamination at the installation with these substances. Where any risk of such contamination is established either:

- Prepare and submit a baseline report containing information necessary to determine the current state of soil and groundwater contamination; or
- Provide a summary report referring to information previously submitted where you are satisfied that such information represents the current state of soil and groundwater contamination;

so as to enable a quantified comparison to be made with the state of soil and groundwater contamination upon definitive cessation of activity. Where you have concluded that there are no risks of soil or groundwater contamination, provide a copy of the risk assessment. Please you also confirm that there are no discharges to surface waters and/or sewer from the site. This will help confirm that Request 7 of the Reg 61 Notice is not applicable.

otherwise agreed in writing with Natural Resources Wales

A review of the outstanding improvement conditions has been undertaken following the transfer of the permit to TSUK.

Improvement Conditions 1 – 2

Improvement conditions 1 and 2 are considered void as they relate directly to the previous operator; ICL.

Improvement Conditions 3 – 8

NRW are satisfied that the environmental management system and operating techniques of TSUK satisfy the requirements of improvement conditions 3 – 8. We are satisfied that the operator is currently achieving all relevant BAT associated with improvement conditions 3 – 8.

Improvement Condition 9

Additional information is required before NRW can conclude that the requirements of IC9 have been satisfied.

Initial discussions between the operator and NRW has concluded that the improvement condition will be addressed via IC4 of the Integrated Steelworks installation permit (BL7108IM). IC4 (BL7108IM) specifies:

IC4	The operator shall review the site conditioning report and site protection monitoring plan to ensure Article 22 of the Industrial Emissions Directive is complied with. Please submit the information to NRW in the format detailed in the 'European Commission Communication on Baseline reports (2014/C 136/03)'	1 December 2024
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Summary

A review of the outstanding improvement conditions of the ETP permit (AB3192HQ) has concluded that the following conditions are considered void/ complete:

- IC1 – IC8

Improvement condition 9 will be addressed via IC4 of the Integrated Steelworks installation permit (BL7108IM).

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.