

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0043748

Permit being assessed: BL1096IB.

For: Padeswood Cement Works , **held by:** Castle Cement Limited

At: PADESWOOD WORKS , PADESWOOD, MOLD, MOLD, CLWYD, CH7 4HB.

Type of assessment: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On: 12/03/2024 between 13:00 and 14:50.

Parts of permit assessed: various.

NRW Lead Officer: Rebecca Harwood, accompanied by James McClymont.

Report sent to: David Quick, Plant Manager, on 17/04/2024.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR2C - Installations - Operations - Operating techniques	Action only (X)	
IR3D - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Noise and vibration	C3 Minor	3.4.1
IR1A - Installations - Management - General Management	Action only (X)	
IR3D - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Noise and vibration	C3 Minor	3.4.1
IR1E - Installations - Management - Avoidance, recovery and disposal of wastes produced by the activities	Action only (X)	

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
IR2C	see Action 1 below	30/06/2024
IR3D	immediate action taken to change the location of wagons off loading to the 181 silo	Already completed
IR1A	see Action 2 below	30/06/2024
IR3D	see Action 3 below	30/09/2024
IR1E	see Action 4 below	31/05/2024

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.

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

NRW officers conducted an inspection of the site on the 12th March 2024 and met with the Environment & Quality Manager and Sustainability Analyst.

NRW agreed in December 2023 that the Operator could trial adding gypsum to the raw mill. The trial occurred between the 29th February and 1st March 2024. The Operator stated that the trial had been a success and therefore they wished to continue. NRW agreed to this on the 5th March 2024 stating they would review operations during the site inspection on the 12th March. The location utilised for the mixing of gypsum with iron oxide was within the coal store. At the time of the visit there was no gypsum present or mixing occurring, but there was a strong wind blowing through the coal store. NRW officers raised concerns about the potential for dust emissions. NRW agreed with the Operator that the mixing operation would be suspended until further information regarding the operation had been provided.

Action 1: If the Operator wishes to continue to mix gypsum with the iron oxide for the raw mill then they shall submit a more detailed proposal to NRW as to how this operation will be undertaken with due consideration given to environmental impacts. A better mixing and handling system is required and procedures should be developed reflecting the operation.

There have been 5 Schedule 5 notifications relating to dust emissions on site since July 2023. As part of the Operators investigations they stated that they would complete certain actions. Officers viewed the locations of these dust emissions to ensure the actions stated

had been completed.

A noise complaint was received on the 16th February 2024 from Bannel Lane. Officers attended the location shortly after the report and substantiated an audible drone from site. **This has been scored a Category 3 breach of condition 3.4.1 as Officers perceived that the noise was causing a pollution outside of the site.**

Officers met with the Shift Manager at Bannel Lane, however, by the time he arrived the noise had stopped. The noise did return but was less intense. The Shift Manager undertook a noise recording adjacent to the reporter's property to try and identify the source of the noise on site. The Operator has subsequently stated that they believe the noise was linked to the offloading of fuel into the 181 silo. As a result of this the angle and location of the wagons has been adjusted. No further complaints from this location, linked to this specific noise have been received.

At the time of the inspection a wagon was offloading into the 181 silo. Officers did not identify any issues in relation to noise linked to this activity.

Action 2: The Operator should ensure that procedures are updated to reflect the new operating practices ensuring training is provided to relevant staff. These may be reviewed on at a future inspection.

A squealing noise was heard coming from the steel drag chain conveyors, located adjacent to the cooler fans (CV01 441). This noise could be heard at Bannel Lane, over and above other noise sources including traffic. **This has been scored a Category 3 breach of condition 3.4.1 as Officers perceived this to be causing pollution outside of the site.**

Action 3: The Operator should identify the cause of the squeal and undertake improvements to reduce the offsite impact of this noise. This work should be completed by the 30th September 2024.

A waste audit was undertaken in May 2023. CAR NRW0041893 raised an issue with waste being stored on site. *During the site inspection, it was noted that a stockpile of discarded rubble, bagged cement, pallets and plastic had built up directly east of the limestone intake building. ACTION 4: The operator is to provide NRW with a plan in writing to deal with this waste by 30/06/23.*

The response received on the 30th June 2024 stated *The bagged cement will be reprocessed on site along with the rubble (which is hardened cement), pallets and plastic will be recycled with our approved waste company. It is anticipated that this will be complete by year end.* This action has not been completed; the waste was still evident as previously identified.

Action 4: This waste should be removed by 31st May 2024.

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.