

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0045533

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: 29/10/2024.

Parts of permit assessed: Q3 Monitoring Returns.

NRW Lead Officer: Rebecca Harwood.

Report sent to: SHEQ Lead, SHEQ Lead, on 26/11/2024.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR3E - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Monitoring	Assessed (A)	
IR4B - Installations - Information - Reporting	Action only (X)	
IR4C - Installations - Information - Notification	Action only (X)	
IR3A - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water, air or land	C3 Minor	3.2.1
IR3A - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water, air or land	C3 Minor	3.2.1
IR3A - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water, air or land	C3 Minor	3.2.1
IR1A - Installations - Management - General Management	C3 Minor	1.1.1

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

Total non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
4	16

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
IR4B	see text below	18/12/2024
IR4C	see text below	18/12/2024
IR3A	see text below	31/12/2024
IR3A	see text below	31/12/2024
IR3A	see text below	31/12/2024
IR1A	see text below	18/12/2024

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

This Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) follows the submission of Quarter 3 2024 (July – September 2024) monitoring data.

1. Q3 CEMS monitoring

CEMS monitoring data continues to be received monthly from the Operator. Data is now exported directly from the Data Acquisition Handling System.

Condition 3.2.1 requires that emissions to air will not exceed levels set out in Schedule 3(b), Tables S3.1 and S3.1(a). Having reviewed the data submitted, the following ELV breaches have been identified for Q3. Exceedances across the quarter have been consolidated per parameter.

Hydrogen Chloride - two exceedances of the ½ hour average ELV of 60mg/Nm³ were recorded during July 2024. **This has been scored a category 3 breach of Condition 3.2.1.** There were no exceedances of the daily average ELV of 8mg/Nm³.

Sulphur dioxide - two exceedance of the ½ hour average ELV of 200mg/Nm³ were identified during July and September 2024. **This has been scored a category 3 breach of Condition 3.2.1.** An exceedance of the daily average of 40mg/Nm³ was also recorded in July 2024. **This has been scored a category 3 breach of Condition 3.2.1.**

A valid calibration function was derived from the particulates probe in August following a further QAL2. Following the calibration function being applied there were no particulate exceedances. NRW has therefore disregarded the particulates exceedances identified during this quarter, prior to the QAL2 being undertaken, i.e. those exceedances identified between 01/07/2024 and 20/08/2024.

A second particulate probe has also been installed. There was a delay in the Operator accessing the data from this probe, with the correct software only being installed on the 31st October 2024. Initial data was submitted to NRW on the 12th November 2024, relating to data from the week commencing 04/11/2024. NRW have raised queries in relation to the data.

Action 1: The Operator should continue to submit the raw CEMS data from both particulate probes to NRW on a weekly basis until at least the end of December 2024.

NRW will discuss and agree a way forward in relation to the monitoring of particulates once this data has been reviewed and anomalies resolved.

All other parameters were compliant.

Schedule Notifications were received for the exceedances in accordance with Condition 4.3.1, however, a number of Part Bs remain outstanding.

Action 2: Part Bs for the outstanding Q1, Q2 and Q3 notifications should be submitted once the investigations have been completed. These should be submitted as soon as possible. Further non-compliances may be applied following a review of these.

2. SNCR / NOx abatement

The Operator is currently adding urea to the plant to reduce NOx emissions. Although a permit variation has been submitted and NRW have duly made the application, the determination of this variation has not been completed. Whilst the use of urea has had the desired effect in reducing NOx there have been several elevated ammonia readings. As the SNCR plant is not currently permitted there are no emission limits for ammonia within the current permit.

CEMs equipment was installed by the Operator as part of the project and NRW have recently viewed this information. Documents submitted as part of the permit variation state that a daily ammonia limit of 15mg/Nm³ could be met as required by the waste incineration BAT conclusions and this was proposed as a limit within the documents submitted by the Operator's consultant.

Since the commencement of the SNCR operation in December 2023, the 15mg/Nm³ proposed daily limit has been exceeded on 22 days. The majority of these (16) occurred in August and September 2024. A maximum reading of 63.7 mg/Nm³ was recorded on the 17th August 2024.

The 'SNCR SOP' was provided to NRW on the 8th November 2024 and states in relation to rising NOx levels the following:

1. *If NOx levels rise above 300mg/m3 put system into maintenance mode by clicking the red A symbol on the overview screen.*
2. *Increase the speed of all selected pumps by 50l/min. Clicking on the blue text box indicating pump speed beneath each pump brings up a number pad to input new pump speed*
3. *Monitor NOx level, if continues to rise increase pump speed in further 50l/min increments until nox level under control*

The SOP does not provide any information on returning the system to 'auto' following a manual intervention. Subsequent discussions with the Operator suggest that this is the cause of the ammonia slip and elevated ammonia readings. **This has been scored a category 3 score breach of Condition 1.1.1 General Management as the procedure is not comprehensive and staff are leaving the plant dosing at higher levels than necessary.**

Action 3: The procedures linked to the operation of the SNCR should be reviewed and trained out to all relevant personnel. NRW will review this procedure on a future compliance visit.

If the permit variation is refused then further scores may apply and/or enforcement action taken.

3. Bottom Ash & APC residues

Bottom Ash and APC residues sampling was undertaken in accordance with Conditions 3.6.1(c) and Table S3.5. Ash composition remained below the 3% TOC limit for Q3.

4. Emergency Relief Valve (ERV)

The ERV opened on 7 occasions during the quarter. Reasons as to why the ERV opened have not been provided in relation to all of the reports, however, two were related to low water levels in the boiler.

Action 3 from CAR NRW0044799 stated *Further investigations should be undertaken to investigate the root cause of the high boiler recirculation temperatures and actions put in place to avoid future occurrences. An update should be provided to NRW by the 30th September 2024.* A response was received on the 12th November 2024 that addressed the previous issues relating to high boiler temperatures.

Action 4: Further information and investigation reports relating to the Q3 ERV openings, including root cause analysis, should be submitted to NRW by the 18th December 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.