

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0045750

Permit being assessed: UP3898FQ.
For: Neath Abbey Wharf, held by Sims Group U K Ltd
At: Skewen, Neath, N P T, SA10 6BL.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection, Reason: Routine.
On 28/11/2024 between 12:30 and 13:30.
Parts of permit assessed: W1, W2, W3 & W4

NRW Lead Officer: David Morgan.
Report sent to: Richard Morgan, Site Manager on 03/12/2024.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
W1A - Waste - Management - General management	Assessed (A)	
W2A - Waste - Operations - Permitted activities	Assessed (A)	
W2C - Waste - Operations - Operating techniques	Assessed (A)	
W2D - Waste - Operations - The site	Assessed (A)	
W2E - Waste - Operations - Waste acceptance	Assessed (A)	
W3A - Waste - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water, air or land	Assessed (A)	
W4A - Waste - Information - Records	Assessed (A)	

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

Total number of 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

A routine site inspection was undertaken on Thursday 28th November 2024. Present at the time of the inspection were: David Morgan (Natural Resources Wales) and Richard Morgan (SIMS/Unimetals).

Change of Operator Name

Since the previous inspection, it has been noted that the SIMS Group UK Limited company has been purchased by Unimetals Recycling (UK) Limited and our records indicate that an application to vary the Environmental Permit has been made. The permit variation is currently being processed and will likely be completed in January 2025.

Following determination of the application, our records and systems will be updated to reflect change of name from SIMS Group UK Limited to Unimetals Recycling (UK) Limited.

Site Inspection

On Thursday 28th November 2024, a site inspection was undertaken and the following observations were made:

Despite changes to the business name, activities and processes onsite appear to be managed as they were during the previous inspection (29th June 2023, report reference: CAR_NRW0042059).

All wastes were clearly segregated (WEEE, metal wastes etc.) and conformed with the list of acceptable wastes in the Environmental Permit.

Site infrastructure appears to be well maintained and there were no visible signs of significant damage to site surfaces or boundary fencing. Well maintained infrastructure ensures the impact of operations off site is prevented.

Site Drainage

A visual inspection of the interceptor outlet on the wharf was undertaken and this was clear. There were no visible signs of oils/greases in this area and there was no iridescence or discolouration of the receiving waters. The flow from the interceptor outlet was very low.

At the time of the inspection, it was a period of low tide and in observing the river bank and river bed by the wharf, it was evident that no waste has escaped site and/or entered the watercourse.

Records & Information

Following an inspection of the yard, we discussed plant and machinery and the requirement to keep records of maintenance checks.

Extensive records were provided for all plant and machinery that is used on site. Records included notification of issues, maintenance work, daily inspection checks and pre-use checklists.

Consignment Notes for waste batteries that are removed from site were provided for inspection. Consignment Notes appeared to contain all relevant and required information.

Summary

A site inspection was undertaken on Thursday 28th November 2024. **No non-compliances were recorded against the Environmental Permit.**

Generally, the site appears to be well managed with site infrastructure well maintained to prevent any pollution or impact to the wider environment.

Thank you for your time during the inspection.

END OF REPORT

Any compliance criteria not highlighted in the above summary should be considered as not assessed. In this document 'Natural Resources Wales' means the Natural Resources Body for Wales established by Article 3 of the Natural Resource Body for Wales (Establishment) Order 2012. You should note that the Natural Resources Body for Wales has been formed by bringing together the Countryside Council for Wales, Forestry Commission Wales and Environment Agency Wales. The Natural Resources Body for Wales has been empowered to exercise Welsh devolved functions since 1st April 2013 and has, generally, taken over the responsibilities of the Countryside Council for Wales, the Forestry Commissioners and the Environment Agency for Wales.

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.

What are suspended scores?

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 and Waste action criteria (used in section 1 and 2):

A: Permitted activities

- A1 Specified by permit

B: Infrastructure

- B1 Infrastructure – Engineering for prevention and control of emissions
- B2 Infrastructure – Closure and decommissioning
- B3 Infrastructure – Site drainage engineering (clean and foul)
- B4 Infrastructure – Containment of stored materials
- B5 Infrastructure – Plant and equipment

C: General management

- C1 General management – Staff competency/training
- C2 General management – Management system and operating procedures
- C3 General management – Materials acceptance
- C4 General management – Storage, handling, labelling and segregation

D: Incident management

- D1 Incident management – Site security
- D2 Incident management – Accidents, emergency and incident planning

E: Emissions

- E1 Emissions – Air
- E2 Emissions – Land and groundwater
- E3 Emissions – Surface water
- E4 Emissions – Sewer
- E5 Emissions – Waste

F: Amenity

- F1 Amenity – Odour
- F2 Amenity – Noise
- F3 Amenity – Dust/fibres/particulates and litter
- F4 Amenity – Pests/birds and scavengers
- F5 Amenity – Deposits on road

G: Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting

- G1 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Monitoring of emissions and environment
- G2 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Records of activity, site diary/journal/events
- G3 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Maintenance records
- G4 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Reporting and notification to Natural Resources Wales

H: Resources efficiency

- H1 Resource efficiency – Efficient use of raw materials
- H2 Resource efficiency – Energy efficiency

Enforcement response

Any permit condition non-compliance 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 20 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 – 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.