

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0047987

Permit being assessed: CB3491FL.

For: AST Plastic Containers UK LLP, **held by:** AST Plastic Containers UK LLP

At: Unit 1, Abbey Road, Redwither Business Park, Wrexham, Wrexham, LL13 9RF.

Type of assessment: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On: 28/03/2025 between 10:00 and 11:05.

Parts of permit assessed: 1.1.1.

NRW Lead Officer: Ian Thomas2.

Report sent to: Robert Shepherd, TCM, on 10/04/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
W4B - Waste - Information - Reporting	C3 Minor	4.2.2

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

Total non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
1	4

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
W4B	Submit all historic waste returns up to current requirements	30/04/2025

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

On Thursday the 28th March 2025 Natural Resources Wales officers attended site.

This was a routine site inspection for permit ref EPR/CB3491FL which was carried out by Waste Regulation Officer Ian Thomas.

On arrival at site, Ian met with Bob Shepherd, TCM for the site, and Gavin Shepherd, site manager, who accompanied the officer throughout the visit.

Inspection of the outside area of the site showed containers and IBC's stored within the permit boundary.



Outside storage of IBC's

The outside wash plant is operational, this is being used to wash out IBC's, the water used enters the water filtration system which recirculates the water back to the washing cycle. The wash plant is referenced in EMS 3.6.1 – it is unclear if this relates to the Drum Cleaning & washing plant located inside the building, or the wash plant located outside. The outside wash plant looks to be a dedicated wash for contaminated IBC's. Please check the EMS to ensure the outside wash plant is accounted for.



Outside IBC wash plant.

The first site inspection was carried out on the 21st of June 2022, further site visits have since been completed. Waste returns for the site must be completed within one month of each quarter. Checks prior to the visit showed that no waste returns had been completed since the permit was issued. **Permit condition 4.2.2: Within one month of the end of each quarter, the operator shall submit to Natural Resources Wales using the form made available for the purpose, the information specified on the form relating to the site and the waste accepted and removed from it during the previous quarter. Compliance criteria G4 - Scored as C3.**

During the last visit in December 2023, and the inspection on 28th March 2025, the same issue was highlighted on the CARS form, and to date no waste returns have been submitted. I explained this issue to Gavin Shepherd, he explained that the waste returns had been forwarded to Oaktree consultants to submit as required.

All operations are taking place within the building, as specified in the permit. The building contains areas for both recycling and manufacture of new containers. The newer process within the wash plant is cleaning perfume containers, this has increased in size, taking up more space with storage and washing. Please review the EMS again to account for the storage and treatment of this area.

The permit was granted with a condition that fire walls would be installed within the waste storage areas 1, 2, 3 and 4. These walls have been installed as per the requirements of the permit.

As well as receiving plastic from the sister site, waste plastics are also being received from other sources as shown. These incoming materials must be accounted for on the waste returns.



Waste plastics received.

Gavin discussed that the site is exploring the possibility of discharging some water to the foul sewer, an investigation into this and the growth of the site is ongoing, and if feasible a variation to the permit will be applied for.

Thank you for your time during the inspection. Should you have any queries regarding this CAR form please contact.

ian.thomas2@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Post: Natural Resources Wales, Chester Road, Buckley, Flintshire, CH7 3AJ In this document 'Natural Resources Wales' means the Natural Resources Body for Wales established by Article 3 of the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Establishment) Order 2012

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

1. Management

- W1A – General management
- W1B – Energy Efficiency (MCP/SG facilities only)
- W1C – Avoidance, recovery and disposal of wastes produced by the activities

2. Operations

- W2A – Permitted activities
- W2B – Waste recovery plan
- W2C – Operating techniques
- W2D – The site
- W2E – Waste acceptance
- W2F – Technical requirements
- W2G – Improvement programme
- W2H – Pre-operational conditions

3. Emission and Monitoring

- W3A – Emissions to water, air or land
- W3B – Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits
- W3C – Odour
- W3D – Noise and vibration
- W3E – Monitoring
- W3F – Pests
- W3G – Fire

4. Information

- W4A – Records
- W4B – Reporting
- W4C – 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.