

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0049009

Permit being assessed: PP3834CB.

For: Ruabon Electro Ceramics, **held by:** CeramTec UK Ltd

At: VAUXHALL INDUSTRIAL ESTATE , RUABON, WREXHAM, WREXHAM, CLWYD, LL14 6HY.

Type of assessment: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On: 29/07/2025 between 10:50 and 12:15.

Parts of permit assessed: See below.

NRW Lead Officer: Rick Prichard, accompanied by Jamie Blythin.

Report sent to: UK SHE Manager, UK SHE Manager, on 01/08/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR2A - Installations - Operations - Permitted activities	Assessed (A)	
IR3B - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits	C3 Minor	3.2.3
IR3A(2) - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to air	Assessed (A)	
IR3C - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Odour	Assessed (A)	
IR3F - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Pests	Assessed (A)	

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
IR3B	Action 1: Reorganize wastes stored in the triage area and jet wash the surface to remove any barriers restricting flow into the collection tank Action 2: Implement measures to ensure liquid wastes stored in the larger, uncovered storage area are provided with adequate secondary containment e.g. placed on bunded drip-trays, to reduce the potential for pollution. Provide NRW with photographic evidence that this has been completed by the specified date.	16/09/2025

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.

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 a routine, arranged site inspection at CeramTec UK Ltd in Ruabon. The purpose of this inspection was a familiarisation and handover visit for the new inspecting officer. The UK SHE Manager accompanied officers during the inspection.

The site

NRW officers were given a tour of the site which included an overview of site operations, all of the permitted emission points and the waste storage area at the rear of the site.

There was a fire at the site on 22/07/25. The operator is still carrying out investigations into the root cause of the fire. The SHE Manager stated that the fire has not impacted on the operations related to the environmental permit.

Waste material is stored in dedicated areas at the rear of the main building prior to removal from site. Drums and IBCs containing various liquid wastes are stored in two main areas, a covered triage area and a larger uncovered storage area.

The covered Triage area was untidy and held multiple plastic containers holding various liquids. The SHE Manager explained that lots of containers had been hastily placed here

following the recent fire. This storage area drains into a 50l tank and is periodically emptied. The concrete surface was dirty with moss and leaves which would likely inhibit or block the free flow of any spillages into the tank. Reorganizing the waste stored here and jet washing the concrete surface followed by regular cleaning would help the intended containment function. This was discussed with the SHE Manager during the inspection.

The dedicated area for larger liquid containers is uncovered and lacks a bund on the lip of this area which would prevent liquids flowing onto the internal site road. However, the gradient of the storage area slopes away from the road. The area has metal stanchions protecting the containers (during the inspection mostly 50 gallon containers of green coolant), from being struck. The containment walls are of breeze block construction with a sealant painted on the bottom course but the integrity of the sealant and whether it continued to the concrete pad could not be checked due to moss and leaves.

As the area is uncovered, rainwater contained within may become contaminated and need to be treated as hazardous waste. In heavy or prolonged rainwater events, water from this area would likely flow down the road to the nearest surface water drain (approx 20m away), and also onto the hardcore surface adjacent. Management indicated that the current storage conditions are managed on a risk basis and funding requests had been submitted for installing a roofing system over the area.

At present, there are issues with the secondary containment of liquid wastes stored in the areas described above. There is the potential risk of pollution and NRW considers this a breach of permit condition 3.2.3 and a minor non-compliance score has been applied (IR3B-Emission of substances not controlled by emission limits-C3).

Action 1: Reorganize wastes stored in the triage area and jet wash the surface to remove any barriers restricting flow into the collection tank

Action 2: Implement measures to ensure liquid wastes stored in the larger, uncovered storage area are provided with adequate secondary containment e.g. placed on banded drip-trays, to reduce the potential for pollution. Provide NRW with photographic evidence that this has been completed by the specified date.

NRW officers were also shown the ponds containing resident populations of Great Crested Newts along with other flora and fauna which contribute greatly to local biodiversity.

Permitted activities

No issues identified.

Emissions to Air

No issues identified.

Odour

No issues identified.

Pests

No issues identified

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.