

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0048804

Permit being assessed: AP3433ES.

For: Dowlais Slaughterhouse EPR/AP3433ES, **held by:** Kepak Group Limited

At: Pengarnddu Industrial Estate Dowlais Top , Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales, CF48 2TA.

Type of assessment: Audit,

Reason: Routine.

On: 29/04/2025 between 09:00 and 17:00.

Parts of permit assessed: 2.10 Monitoring.

NRW Lead Officer: Brigid Armstead, accompanied by Geraint Harris.

Report sent to: Environmental Coordinator, Environmental Coordinator, on 15/08/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR1A - Installations - Management - General Management	C3 Minor	2.1.5
IR3E - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Monitoring	C3 Minor	2.10.7
IR1A - Installations - Management - General Management	Ongoing (O)	2.1.5 (Consolidated) non compliance
IR3E - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Monitoring	C3 Minor	6.4.3
IR1A - Installations - Management - General Management	Ongoing (O)	2.1.5 (Consolidated) Category 3 non compliance

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

Total non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
3	12

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
IR1A	Please provide a detailed procedure for effluent sampling as well as a contingency plan to include autosampler failure. EA guidance for a sampling procedure can be found on the .gov website.	31/10/2025
IR3E	Please provide evidence to show that the test methods used for measuring emissions to water at W1 and W2 is suitable to determine compliance with the mineral oil and hydrocarbons limits of the permit.	31/10/2025
IR1A	Review the EMS to ensure the following are updated. - Procedures are in place to ensure that holding times are met. - A formal review process is in place for ensuring analysis of samples is MCERTS accredited.	31/10/2025
IR3E	Please provide a plan for ensuring that the permit requirement for continuous monitoring of pH and DO at S1 is not breached.	31/10/2025
IR1A	Please provide a written procedure for the review of laboratory reports	31/10/2025

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.

We are currently considering taking enforcement action against you for the non-compliance recorded above. We will contact you in due course.

4. Details of our assessment

Kepak Water OMA CAR

This CAR form is to report the results of an operator monitoring assessment (OMA) carried out by NRW to evaluate the water monitoring at Kepaks Merthyr Tydfil site.

The report is available as an attachment to this CAR.

Section 1: Management of monitoring

Kepak maintains an accredited EMS system which holds the framework for ensuring that monitoring is managed. Monitoring is scheduled through the operators planned preventative maintenance (PPM) system and responsibilities are documented, with some procedures available through work instructions and SOPs. Improvements could be made in ensuring that the EMS is fully documents to include all procedures, contingencies and

amendments.

It was established during the site visit that there is not currently a written instructions available for effluent sampling and that training is delivered verbally.

Condition 2.1.5 specifies that staff shall be provided with appropriate training and written operating instructions.

A category 3 non compliance with permit condition 2.1.5 has been assigned as the lack of written effluent sampling instructions has the potential to lead to environmental harm through inconsistencies in monitoring.

Action 1: Please provide a detailed procedure for effluent sampling as well as a contingency plan to include autosampler failure. EA guidance for a sampling procedure can be found on the [.gov website](#). **Due: 31 October 2025**

Section 2: Periodic monitoring and test laboratories

Periodic monitoring is undertaken at S1, W1 and W2. These sites are accessible and well maintained. Monitoring site S1 is not located as described in the permit but has been used for several years and is positioned to give a sample of the industrial effluent produced by the site. Samples are sent to laboratories which are accredited to 17025 for all but one of the methods used, but the reports from the laboratories contain comments regarding the potentially affected validity of results due to exceedances in holding times. The autosampler being used for S1 sampling is not MCERTS certified and is located at PP8 which is not the location specified in the permit (PP11). The composition of effluent monitored from PP11 is likely to vary from PP8 as domestic effluent enters the line at PP10 and PP11. There is approx. 330m of drain between PP8 and PP11.

Action 2: Please provide evidence to demonstrate that PP8 is truly representative of the effluent produced. When the permit is next varied, ensure that the effluent monitoring location is updated. **Due: 31 October 2025**

Samples collected from W1 and W2 were found to have been analysed for Oil & Grease by gravimetry. The permit requires surface water samples be analysed for mineral oil and hydrocarbons by infra red spectroscopy.

A category 3 non compliance has been assigned for a breach of condition 2.10.7. due to a potential minor effect on the environment. The method being used to measure mineral oils and hydrocarbons emissions to water at W1 and W2 has not been agreed with NRW as being suitable for the comparability of result to the emissions limit given in the permit.

Action 3: Please provide evidence to show that the test methods used for measuring emissions to water at W1 and W2 is suitable to determine compliance with the mineral oil and hydrocarbons limits of the permit.
Due: 31 October 2025

Samples are sent to accredited laboratories, but reports show repeated non compliances

with holding times. The EMS does not include a formal sample analysis review process.

A category 3 non compliance (consolidated) for a breach of condition 2.1.5. due to a lack of procedures to ensure samples suitably managed and results reviewed. A potential minor impact on the environment is presented if test results are not checked for reliability.

Action 4: Review the EMS to ensure that procedures are in place to ensure that holding times are met. **Due: 31 October 2025**

The autosampler used to collect effluent samples is not MCERTS accredited. NRW requires operators to use MCERTS certified equipment, staff and laboratories where practicable.

Action 5: Please ensure that when the autosampler is replaced, MCERTS accredited equipment is installed where practicable. **Due 31 October 2025.**

Section 3: Continuous monitoring

An MCERTS certified flow meter is used for the continuous monitoring of effluent flow. The flow meter is maintained to MCERTS performance standard and complies with the requirements of the permit. Continuous monitoring of pH and DO is currently undertaken within the effluent treatment plant with non MCERTS equipment.

The permit requires continuous monitoring of pH and DO at S1 which is not currently taking place.

A category 3 non compliance with condition 6.4.3. has been assigned as there is a potential for environmental harm as the lack of continuous monitoring of pH and DO at S1 could result in a delayed response to problems with effluent quality.

Action 6: Please provide a plan for ensuring that the permit requirement for continuous monitoring of pH and DO at S1 is not breached. **Due: 31 October 2025.**

OMA 4: Quality assurance

Quality assurance currently includes the use of UKAS accredited laboratories and MCERTS equipment. This does not currently cover all equipment and parameters. Procedures are in place for reviewing results but this does not include the validity of results and some procedures were not fully documented at the time of the site visit.

The lack of procedures for validating results is **a category 3 breach of permit condition 2.1.5. (Consolidated)** as the lack of written instructions could lead to inaccurate data being reported.

Action 7: Please provide a written procedure for the review of laboratory reports. **Due: 31 October 2025**

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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.