

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0049733

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: 01/10/2025 between 11:00 and 12:00.

Parts of permit assessed: See below.

NRW Lead Officer: Rick Prichard.

Report sent to: SHE Manager, SHE Manager, on 24/10/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR3B - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits	Assessed (A)	
IR3D - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Noise and vibration	Assessed (A)	

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

Total 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

This Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) follows a routine, arranged site inspection at CeramTec UK Ltd in Ruabon. The purpose of this inspection was to review and assess the actions highlighted in CAR NRW00499009 dated 29/07/25. The Safety Health and Environment Manager accompanied the officer during the inspection. The actions were:

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

This area is now no longer used for the storage of liquids but has been jet washed and the collection tank cleaned out.

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.*

This area (formed from three separate storage areas of breeze block construction and concrete base) has been jet washed clean and had sealant re-applied to the lowest course of blocks and extended to the concrete base. The two internal separating walls have been drilled in the far corners with a cylinder cutter, allowing liquids to drain under gravity into the lower (3rd) area. This last area has had a sump installed allowing the liquids from all three areas to drain into it. The sump was full of water on arrival.

An electric pump was inserted to the floor of the sump and the contents pumped into a standard Intermediate Bulk Container (IBC). On completion, the IBC looked a third full giving a rough sump capacity of 300l, which would be put through the site's Water Treatment Plant if uncontaminated. Contaminated liquids would have to be disposed of in the correct fashion. Once the concrete has properly cured, the sump will be fitted with a metal cover. Funding has been sought to build overhead and side covers to this area with the intention it will be approved in the 2026/27 Financial Year. As the area is still open to rain and leaf fall, the Operator was requested to supply the Preventative Maintenance Plan (PMP) and staff checks regime to ensure the interconnecting drainage does not become blocked and the sump level is monitored, especially during high rainfall events.

I am satisfied that the actions mentioned above have now been addressed to better cope with rainwater and liquid waste spillages. Photographs of the improvements and copies of the PMP are on file.

Noise complaint

While on site, further discussions were had about a second noise complaint relating to their extraction unit operating through the night and at weekends. Both complaints originate from the same person (WIR 2508330 and 2508708). The Wrexham County Borough Council Environmental Health (EH) team attended in August after the first complaint, and found that

noise levels were well below the acceptable World Health Organisation limit for nuisance noise and would take no further action. CeramTec have also fitted an automatic shut off controller to their extraction unit which limits its use from 6am -10pm weekdays, and 6am - 12pm on Saturdays. This should eliminate any chance of human error in forgetting to manually turn off the unit on closedown. In light of the EH Team findings and the steps taken by the Operator, any noise heard outside of the stated hours is likely to originate from an adjacent site.

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.