

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0049944

Permit being assessed: BP0236601

For: Swansea Bay Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG
At: Fabian Way, Crymlyn Burrows, Swansea, SA1 8QP.

Type of assessment carried out: Report/Data Review, Reason: Routine.
On 25/09/2025.

Parts of permit assessed: Emissions to Water; Notifications

NRW Lead Officer: Sarah Bennett.

Report sent to: CARS@dwrwymru.com, CARS Mailbox, on 24/11/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C4 No impact	3.1.1
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Assessed (A)	

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

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-C1	Please inform us of why you think the effluent quality deteriorated and what measures can be put in place to prevent a future similar non-compliance.	19/12/2025

Action 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

The purpose of this Compliance Assessment Report is to record compliance with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations (UWWTR) numeric emissions limits relating to a 24-hour composite sample taken at Swansea WwTW on the 25 September 2025.

On the 2 October 2025 you informed us that an UWWTR final effluent compliance sample taken at Swansea Wastewater Treatment Works on the 25 September 2025 had failed the maximum limit for Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) and exceeded the Look Up Table (LUT) limit set for Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD).

The BOD result was 61 mg/l with only 27.4% removal achieved.

The COD result was 160 mg/l with only 17.5% removal achieved.

Condition 3.1.1 requires that the limits given in schedule 3 Table 3.1 shall not be exceeded.

BOD Failure

The maximum limit set for BOD is 50 mg/l. This limit does not apply if a sample has met the 70% removal standard. As the sample exceeded 50 mg/l and did not meet the required 70% removal you have not complied with condition 3.1.1 of your permit for which I have recorded a category 4 non-compliance.

This breach is in contravention of Regulation 38 (2) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 which states that it is an offence for a person to fail to comply with or to contravene an environmental permit condition.

Action: Please inform us of why you think the effluent quality deteriorated and what measures can be put in place to prevent a future similar non-compliance.

We are aware that there were operational issues relating to the MBBR lanes and flooding at Swansea WwTW the day before this non-compliance.

Please take the action required in this report as formal Advice and Guidance.

COD Exceedance

The UWWTR COD limit is set at 75% removal standard or 125 mg/l but not both. The maximum limit is 250 mg/l.

Condition 3.1.2 states that the limits in schedule 3 table S3.1 to which this condition applies may be exceeded where: in any series of samples of the discharge taken at regular but randomised intervals in any period of twelve consecutive months as listed in column 1 of schedule 3A, no more than the relevant number of samples, as listed in column 2 of schedule 3A, exceed the applicable limit for that relevant parameter. For relevant parameters subject to schedule 3C the assessment is based on a fixed calendar year from 1 January to 31 December inclusive.

This means the UWWTR COD limit of 125mg/l can be exceeded three times in a fixed calendar year from 1 January to 31 December inclusive at Swansea WWTW where 24 samples are taken as long as the sample does not exceed the Maximum limit of 250mg/l.

This is the second sample exceedance for COD at Swansea WWTW in 2025, the exceedance is therefore compliant with the permit, i.e., it is covered by the LUT provisions in the permit.

Condition 3.1.4 (abnormal operating conditions)

You have not informed us that abnormal operating conditions were adversely affecting final effluent quality at the time of sampling.

Compliance Assessment with Condition 4.3.1 (b) Notifications:

I have assessed that you are compliant with condition 4.3.1 which requires you to notify us as soon as reasonably practicable following detection of: (a) any breach of a limit specified in schedule 3 table S3.1 (including individual exceedances of limits which are covered by condition 3.1.2).

The sample was taken on the 25/09/2025 and you notified us of the exceedance on the 02/10/2025.

Thank you

End

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 to 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
C1 Major	Potential to have a major, serious, persistent and/or extensive impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property
C2 Significant	Potential to have a significant impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property
C3 Minor	Potential to have a minor or minimal impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property
C4 No environmental impact	Non-compliance at a regulated site that cannot foreseeably have any impact on the environment, people and/or property

If your assessment result in Section 1 is suspended, what does this mean?

In line with our guidance, we may suspend non-compliance for up to six months to allow time for remedial action to be taken. These will be re-instated if the action is not completed.

Full list of water quality action criteria (used in section 1 and 2):**WQ A: Management**

- WQ-A1 General management

WQ B: Operations

- WQ-B1 Permitted activities
- WQ-B2 The site
- WQ-B3 Operating techniques
- WQ-B4 Improvement programme
- WQ-B5 Pre-operational conditions

WQ C: Emissions and monitoring

- WQ-C1 Emissions to water
- WQ-C2 Emissions to land
- WQ-C3 Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits
- WQ-C4 Installation of monitoring boreholes

WQ D: Information

- WQ-D1 Records
- WQ-D2 Reporting
- WQ-D3 Notifications

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.