

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0050078

Permit being assessed: GP3193LE.

For: Gower Chemicals Ltd, **held by:** Gower Chemicals Ltd

At: Acid Dilution Terminal, Crymlyn Burrows, Swansea, West Glamorgan, SA1 8PT.

Type of assessment: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On: 28/11/2025 between 10:30 and 13:00.

Parts of permit assessed: Storage and testing.

NRW Lead Officer: Linda Warrick.

Report sent to: Hayley Watts, SHEQ and compliance manager, on 22/12/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
W2A - Waste - Operations - Permitted activities	Assessed (A)	
W2C - Waste - Operations - Operating techniques	Assessed (A)	
W2E - Waste - Operations - Waste acceptance	Assessed (A)	
W2D - Waste - Operations - The site	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

LW met with Hayley Watts and Phil Rees.

Site Overview

The site has a bespoke permit. The waste management operations at this site is the recovery of refrigerant gases (HCFC's) by physical treatment. Wastes are produced if the gases cannot be recovered due to the levels of oil contamination. All waste gases are removed from site and are disposed of by incineration. Disposal is limited to 50 tonnes per day with a maximum of 10 tonnes of hazardous waste to be stored on site at any one time.

The electrochemical treatment activities have never been utilised and the site should look to vary the permit to remove this from Table S1.1. The site should also update the permit to replace reference to SOL0810GC-1 and other references to the application form and replace this with the current EMS.

A number of refrigerant gases are recovered including R404A and R410A. These are gases with high Global Warming Potential of over 2,500.

Gases are brought to site with a bar code display. These bar codes are scanned to identify the age of the cylinder. The site have a cylinder management procedure to ensure cylinders are checked and maintained. Cylinders are externally inspected and tested every 10 years. Inspections are also undertaken on site. Waste cylinders are emptied and cleaned and reused if they meet the specification.

Gases are tested to identify contamination, they are cleaned and blended to meet the requirements for use by various clients. If they cannot be adequately cleaned and blended they will be sent for disposal.

Technical Competency

Phil Rees is the TCM for the site. He has an up to date COTC and the certificate has been forwarded for our records. The expiry date is the 13/02/2026. Phil has LH (landfill hazardous), TSH (transfer hazardous) and TMH (Treatment hazardous). Which is suitable for the activities at this site.

Staff working in the testing laboratory are degree level chemists. The lab is not accredited.

Directly Applicable Legislation

Waste leaving the site comprises of interceptor sludge, oils, scrap containers and contaminated F gas. The interceptor sludge and oils are currently taken away by Pure Clean. The waste gas containers are taken away by Simms Metals. The contaminated F gas is currently taken to Halon in Flintshire.

Please ensure the EMS has procedures in place to enable the site to comply with the obligations under the Directly Applicable Legislation such as the Hazardous waste regulation and Duty of Care Regulations.

The site is a registered premise CAB606. This expires 12/08/26

A site walkthrough noted that the oil tank has a visual gauge but has also been retrofitted with an electronic oil tank indicator. This is situated in the store room. Cylinders were stored upright in cages and they all had barcodes. The yard was clean and tidy. The impermeable pavement was in tact and the site has a sealed drainage system.

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.