

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0050731

Permit being assessed: BL4567IZ.

For: Clydach Nickel Refinery, **held by:** Vale Europe Limited

At: CLYDACH REFINERY, Clydach, Swansea, Swansea, SA6 5QR.

Type of assessment: Report/Data Review,

Reason: Routine.

On: 31/12/2025.

Parts of permit assessed: See detail below.

NRW Lead Officer: Michael Launder.

Report sent to: Sustainability Supervisor, Vale Europe, on 18/02/2026.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR3A(1) - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C3 Minor	3.1.2
IR3A(1) - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C3 Minor	3.1.2
IR3A(2) - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to air	C3 Minor (Suspended)	3.1.2
IR3A(2) - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to air	C3 Minor (Suspended)	3.1.2
IR3A(2) - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to air	C3 Minor (Suspended)	3.1.2

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

Total non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
5	8

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
IR3A(1)	Operator to submit a summary to NRW of the investigation of	31/03/2026

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
	the exceedances.	
IR3A(1)	Operator to submit a summary to NRW of the investigation into the exceedances.	31/03/2026
IR3A(2)	A1 NOx - The operator has submitted an application to vary their EPR permit, proposing changes to the compliance limits affected by this non-conformance. This is now awaiting determination by NRW's permitting service.	Already completed
IR3A(2)	A25 CO - The operator has submitted an application to vary their EPR permit, proposing changes to the compliance limits affected by this non-conformance. This is now awaiting determination by NRW's permitting service.	Already completed
IR3A(2)	A27 NOx - The operator has submitted an application to vary their EPR permit, proposing changes to the compliance limits affected by this non-conformance. This is now awaiting determination by NRW's permitting service.	Already completed

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

Introduction

This CAR form has been issued in response to the submission of the quarterly and annual monitoring returns by the operator, and other compliance notifications for 2025.

Quarterly and Annual Returns

the returns required by permit condition 4.2.3 Reporting were submitted to NRW within the specified reporting period:

- The Q1 (January to March 2025) submission included all the results for quarterly parameters required over this period.
- The Q2 (April to June 2025) submission included all the results for quarterly parameters required over this period.
- The Q3 (July to September 2025) submission included all the results for quarterly parameters required over this period.

- The six monthly (January to June 2025 / July to December 2025) submissions included all the results for half-yearly parameters required over this period.
- The annual (2025) submission included all the results for annual parameters required over this period.

The reported emissions were within the emission limits specified in the permit for the above monitoring periods, with the exception of the Schedule 5 reports for exceedances of the emission limits outlined below.

Schedule 5 Notifications

Quarter 1 (January to March 2025)

A Schedule 5 notification submitted to NRW on 10 April 2025 gives the measured weekly results for w/c 4 March 2025 for Fixed & Free Ammonia as N as 5.44 mg/l, in exceedance of the permitted limit of 5 mg/l.

Quarter 2 (April to June 2025)

A further notification submitted to NRW on 3 June 2025 gives the measured weekly results for w/c 20 May 2025 for Fixed & Free Ammonia as N as 10.82 mg/l, in exceedance of the permitted limit of 5 mg/l.

Compliance: The above results are in exceedance of the emission limits set in the permit for W1 and in breach of condition 3.1.2. A non-compliance score of C3 against the criteria IR3A(1) Emissions to water has been allocated to each of these breaches for the respective reporting period.

Action: Operator to submit a summary to NRW of the investigation into the exceedances of the Fixed & Free Ammonia limit at W1.

Quarter 4 (October to December 2025)

A Schedule 5 notification submitted to NRW on 23 December 2025 reported exceedances of the NO_x limits of 100 mg/m³ at A1 (Kiln "Born" Heater) and A27 (Hydrogen Plant Reformer Furnace and Flue Gas Heaters). The measured value at A1 on 18 December 2025 was 108 mg/m³ and the measured value at A27 on 3 October 2025 was 142 mg/m³.

Also reported was an exceedance of the 15 mg/m³ CO limit at A25 (Hydrogen Plant Vaporiser). The measured value on 3 October 2025 was 30.1 mg/m³.

Compliance: The above results are in exceedance of the emission limits set by the permit for A1, A25 and A27 and in breach of condition 3.1.2. Non-compliance scores of C3 against criteria IR3A (2) Emissions to air have been allocated to each breach for the October to December 2025 reporting period.

These are exceedances of the current permitted emission limits and represent non-compliance with the environmental permit. However the non-compliance score will be suspended pending determination of the permit variation submitted by the operator on 11 November 2025. The scores are suspended with the following caveat; if the impact of the exceedance changes, the suspension is limited to the specifics of this instance, it is time limited and if the application is not successful the scores will be applied retrospectively.

Note: This CAR report and assessment was undertaken on 18 February 2026. However to ensure that the CCS score is attributed to the correct financial year (for billing) the date on CARS system has been altered to 31 December 2025.

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 required for the permit condition assessed to avoid non-compliance. No non-compliance scored at this time
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(1) – Emissions to water
- IR3A(2) – Emissions to air
- IR3A(3) – Emissions to 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.

Disputing the Content of this Compliance Assessment Report Form

If you disagree with the content of this Compliance Assessment Report form, you should submit your concerns, in writing, to the regulating officer who issued it within **15 working days** of its issue. This will be treated as a **Stage 1 review**.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the stage 1 review, you may request a **Stage 2 appeal**. This request must be submitted **within 21 working days** of receiving the response from the stage 1 review.

Further details on our review and appeal process are available at: [Natural Resources Wales / Appeal a regulatory decision from Natural Resources Wales](#)

Concerns Not Related to the Content of this Compliance Assessment Report Form

If your concerns do not relate to the content of the Compliance Assessment Report form, you should first attempt to resolve the issue with the regulating officer or their line manager.

If the issue remains unresolved, please contact our **Customer Contact Team**:

- **Telephone:** 0300 065 3000 (Monday to Friday, 09:00–17:00)
- **Email:** enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

They will provide details on how to escalate your concerns through our **Complaints and Commendations procedure**.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you may contact the **Public Services Ombudsman for Wales**:

- **Telephone:** 0300 790 0203
- **Email:** 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.