

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0050748

Permit being assessed: BV9713IU.

For: Margam Gases, **held by:** BOC Limited

At: LONGLANDS LANE , PORT TALBOT, PORT TALBOT, WEST GLAMORGAN, SA13 2NS.

Type of assessment: Site Inspection,

Reason: Routine.

On: 18/02/2026 between 10:00 and 12:00.

Parts of permit assessed: Operations, Emissions.

NRW Lead Officer: Rhydian Cox.

Report sent to: Senior SHEQ Advisor, BOC Limited, on 19/02/2026.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR2A - Installations - Operations - Permitted activities	Action only (X)	
IR2B - Installations - Operations - The site	Assessed (A)	
IR3C - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Odour	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?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
IR2A	To ensure that the permit accurately reflects current operations at the site, the operator has been advised to submit a permit variation. This variation should seek to	Already completed

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
	remove the decommissioned KTI plant from the permit.	

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.

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

Site Inspection February 2026

This Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) details the comments of Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Officers for the site inspection conducted on **18 February 2026** at BOC Margam Gases, Longlands Lane, Margam, Port Talbot, SA13 2NS, for activities held by **BOC Limited** (the operator) under the environmental permit **EPR/BV9713IU**.

The purpose of the site inspection was to be provided with an update on the site, operational activities, staffing structure and permit requirements.

No non-compliance scores were recorded during this inspection. All observed activities were found to be in accordance with the conditions set out in the operator's environmental permit.

Operational Update

The operator provided an operational update on the BOC Margam facility in relation to recent developments at the adjacent Tata Steel Port Talbot (Tata) site. In October 2024, Tata announced the closure of its remaining operational blast furnaces. Decommissioning and demolition activities have since commenced, with plans progressing to install a new Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) to replace the former blast furnace infrastructure.

Historically, a significant proportion of the oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen, and argon produced at BOC Margam was supplied directly to Tata. Due to the transition to an EAF, there will no longer be any requirement for hydrogen from Tata. Consequently, hydrogen production volumes at BOC Margam have been substantially reduced with the hydrogen pipeline directly from the BOC site to Tata in a decommissioned state. Hydrogen continues to be produced at the *Howmar plant*, with product now transported by road to alternative customers on a campaign basis. The operator also noted that wider industrial demand for hydrogen has declined, reflecting current trends across UK industry.

In response to these changes in product demand, BOC has implemented several significant amendments to the facility's staffing structure. The operator presented these

developments through a revised company organogram.

From an operational standpoint, the changes have also led to confirmation of the decommissioning of the currently mothballed *KTI plant (IC5)*, with initial decommissioning activities now underway. The operator explained that the reduction in demand has also facilitated an opportunity to review and remove redundant assets from across the site, subject to monetary and resource availability.

A scheduled maintenance period for the *Howmar plant* is currently planned for **December 2026**. This planned downtime is intended to support routine servicing and ensure continued operational efficiency and compliance.

Permit Review

To ensure that the permit accurately reflects current operations at the site, the operator has been advised to submit a permit variation. This variation should seek to remove the decommissioned *KTI plant* from the permit and consolidate all previous variations into a single, updated version. Relevant guidance on submitting a permit variation is available on the NRW website. Should the operator require further assistance, support can be accessed through the chargeable pre-application advice service.

Climate Change Risk Assessment

Discussions were held regarding the site's forthcoming Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA). The operator presented a draft version of the assessment, and guidance was provided on NRW's expectations in relation to the required content and level of detail for the final submission.

Site Tour

A site tour was undertaken, covering the areas relevant to the site's Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) permit. During the visit, the operator outlined the hydrogen production process at the *Howmar plant*. The tour then proceeded to the *KTI plant*, where decommissioning activities had commenced, with several components already removed and awaiting appropriate off-site disposal. No detectable odours were present during the inspection, and no noise levels exceeding those expected under normal operational conditions were observed.

No permit non-compliances or operational issues were identified during the inspection.

END OF REPORT

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.