

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0050839

**Permit being assessed:** AP3433ES.

**For:** Dowlais Slaughterhouse EPR/AP3433ES, **held by:** Kepak Group Limited

**At:** Pengarnddu Industrial Estate Dowlais Top , Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales, CF48 2TA.

**Type of assessment:** Report/Data Review,

**Reason:** Routine.

**On:** 31/12/2025.

**Parts of permit assessed:** IR4B, IR3A(1), .

**NRW Lead Officer:** Brigid Armstead.

**Report sent to:** Environmental Coordinator, Environmental Coordinator, on 16/03/2026.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR4B - Installations - Information - Reporting	Assessed (A)	
IR3A(1) - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C3 Minor	6.4.2
IR3A(1) - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Action only (X)	

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

Total non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
1	4

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)	Provide a root cause and plan to ensure that the flow rate limit at S1 is compliant with the permit limit.	30/04/2026
IR3A(1)	Ensure that dichlorvos monitoring results are reported for 2025.	30/04/2026

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.**

**We are currently considering taking enforcement action against you for the non-compliance recorded above. We will contact you in due course.**

### 4. Details of our assessment

#### **Reporting**

Reporting of parameters in Table S2 were submitted on the forms specified in Table S3 as per 4.1.2(b).

#### **Emissions**

Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4 2025 emissions were reported for monitoring reports for W1 & W2 and S1 and are compliant with the emission limits for all parameters as required by permit conditions 6.3.2 and 6.4.2 .

Annual organophosphorus compounds results for 2025 received and are below the limit of reporting. *Kepak have advised that Dichlorvos has had to be retested due to a quality error.*

***Action: Ensure that dichlorvos monitoring results are reported for 2025. Due 30 April 2026***

#### **Energy and water consumption 2025**

NRW received energy, waste and water reports for 2025 from Kepak on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

The site used 48,063 MWh of primary electricity, 16,965 MWh of delivered gas and 191,857 m<sup>3</sup> of process water in 2025.

Electricity, gas and water consumption remained very similar to 2024.

In 2025 the majority of waste was either recycled, sent to an anaerobic digester or for rendering. The site continues to send contaminated plastics to landfill, due to contractor restrictions. In order to reduce the amount going to landfill, Kepak Merthyr have invested in new waste hatch equipment in 2025, and production processes are currently under review to segregate any clean plastics being mixed with blood-soaked packaging.

#### **Eq tank containment:**

During a previous site visit (CAR\_NRW0040895), it was noted that there does not appear to be secondary containment for the effluent treatment plant equalisation tanks.

**CAR\_NRW0049137 Action:** Please submit a baseline assessment and gap analysis as per C736 principles for the Eq tanks. **Due 31 December 2025.**

NRW received Kepak's response to the above action on 22 December 2025. The submitted gap analysis provides a high-level summary of the site's existing containment provisions; however, it does not clearly demonstrate how secondary containment capacity risks have been assessed or managed.

The purpose of this review is to assess whether the secondary containment arrangements associated with the EQ tanks provide reasonable assurance that pollution risks arising from site operations are being effectively managed and controlled.

Based on the information provided, the gap analysis demonstrates partial alignment with the principles set out in CIRIA C736: *Containment systems for the prevention of pollution*. Several elements of good practice are acknowledged; however, they are not yet supported by sufficient evidence or implementation detail. As a result, the information currently available does not provide full confidence that the containment systems will perform as intended over their operational life.

In particular, the submission does not adequately demonstrate how the following aspects have been addressed:

- the derivation and adequacy of secondary containment capacity;
- the identification and assessment of reasonably foreseeable pollution incidents; and
- the management of deterioration, inspection, maintenance, and change.

While no immediate evidence of pollution has been identified, the gaps outlined above represent potential risk pathways if not addressed.

#### Secondary containment capacity and CIRIA C736

In considering whether the current arrangements are consistent with Class 1 secondary containment, NRW notes that CIRIA C736 adopts a risk-based approach, whereby containment capacity should be sufficient to retain the maximum credible loss scenario, rather than being determined solely by fixed volumetric rules.

Chapter 6, Table 6.2 of CIRIA C736 signposts users to the general bund sizing principles set out in Section 4.2, including the 110% of the largest tank or 25% of total tank capacity criteria. However, for Class 1 systems, CIRIA C736 allows alternative capacities where a lower volume can be justified through a documented assessment of credible scenarios, together with appropriate operational and management controls.

Kepak has identified that the site operates two EQ tanks, each with a capacity of approximately 200 m<sup>3</sup>, and that the existing secondary containment tanks have a combined capacity of approximately 52 m<sup>3</sup>. The information provided does not include a documented assessment of credible failure scenarios, loss pathways, detection times, or intervention measures sufficient to demonstrate that this reduced capacity is appropriate and protective of the environment.

As such, NRW considers that, at present, the justification for the existing secondary

containment capacity is inadequate when assessed against the principles of CIRIA C736.

At this stage, NRW considers the shortfalls identified to represent a potential general management breach. Further evidence and justification will be required to demonstrate that the secondary containment arrangements in place are suitable and sufficient for pollution prevention.

To support this assessment, NRW intends to undertake a full site containment audit in 2026. The scope of the audit, required preparatory information, and site visit arrangements will be agreed via email with the site Environmental Coordinator.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.