

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0051851

Permit being assessed: BW9999IG.

For: Chirk Particleboard Factory, **held by:** Kronospan Ltd

At: Chirk Particleboard Holyhead Road , Chirk, Wrexham, Clwyd, LL14 5NT.

Type of assessment: Site Inspection,

Reason: Incident Response (Incident number 2604252).

On: 27/04/2026 between 11:10 and 12:30.

Parts of permit assessed: various.

NRW Lead Officer: Rebecca Harwood, accompanied by Rick Prichard.

Report sent to: Chris Emery, Operations Director, on 09/06/2026.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (compliance criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
IR4C - Installations - Information - Notification	C3 Minor	4.3.2
IR3B - Installations - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits	C3 Minor	3.2.1

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

Total non-compliances recorded	Total non-compliance score
2	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
IR4C	see Action 1 below	15/06/2026
IR3B	see Actions 2-4 below	31/07/2026

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

This Compliance Assessment Report follows an inspection of the site following an explosion within the MDF cyclone tower on 26/04/2026.

The Operator reported the incident to NRW via the Incident Communications Centre. A number of calls were also received from members of the public.

Out of hours officers visited Chirk on the 26/04/2026 to assess for any off-site environmental impacts, no off-site impacts were noted at the time of the visit. On the 27/04/2026 officers met with the Chief Financial Officer on site and undertook an external visual inspection of the MDF process line and cyclones.

Both MDF lines were off at the time of the visit. The K7 biomass boiler was cooling down as part of the shutdown process which commenced at 17:50 on 26/04/2026. The thermal oil process was being circulated and kept warm.

Officers viewed the damage to the MDF production hall and MDF2 cyclone tower from a distance and did not go into the building. Fire water was contained within the building and along the MDF fire road. The Operator stated that the water from the fire road goes directly to foul sewer. Doors had blown along the side of the MDF building and panels blown on the cyclone tower. The Operator was still assessing the damage and investigating the root cause at the time of the inspection. It was thought at the time that the seat of the explosion was within the air grader.

One appliance for North Wales Fire & Rescue Service was still in attendance at the time. It was confirmed by the Operations Director on 28/04/2026 that the fire service had handed the site back to the Operator at lunchtime on the 27/04/2026 and the root cause investigation had started.

Subsequently officers have viewed the CCTV footage of the explosion. There was an unauthorised emission of soot and ash as a result of the explosion. **This has been scored a category 3 breach of condition 3.2.1 (Compliance criteria (IR3B) Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits).**

Although an initial fire report into the incident has been provided to NRW a Schedule 5 notification has not been received. **This has been scored a category 3 breach of condition 4.3.2 (Compliance criteria (IR4C) Notification).**

Action 1: Submit Schedule 5 notification by 15/06/2026.

Action 2: Provide a summary of works completed to date as a result of the explosion and what remaining works remain outstanding in relation to the MDF processes and cyclone towers, along with associated timescales for completion. This information should be submitted to NRW by 22/06/2026.

Action 3: Provide the following information in relation to the explosion and MDF2:

- any structural assessment reports in relation to the MDF building / cyclones / stores;
- risk assessments for the MDF process / cyclone areas;
- DSEAR zoning plan of the site.

This information should be submitted to NRW by 22/06/2026.

Action 4: Provide a full root cause investigation report relating to the MDF2 explosion to NRW by 31/07/2026, or earlier if available.

Further scores may apply following a review of any information provided.

As a result of the explosion and the MDF2 line being off, there has been a delay to the additional monitoring required for biomass boiler K7 as part of the Regulation 36 notice issued in March 2026. A subsequent Regulation 36 notice has been issued extending the date for the completion of the additional monitoring until the end of June 2026.

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.