

Compliance Assessment Report

Report ID:
CAR_NRW0036234

This form will report compliance with your permit as determined by an NRW officer

Site	Poeton Cardiff	Permit Ref	BP1772IZ		
Operator/Permit holder	Poeton (Cardiff) Limited				
Regime	Installations				
Date of assessment	22/01/2020	Time in	13:00	Out	15:00
Assessment type	Audit				
Parts of the permit assessed	Site Inspection				
Lead officer's name	Harris, Geraint				
Accompanied by	Green, Rebecca				
Recipient's name/position	Jason Hamling/ HSE & Facilities Manager	Date issued	27/01/2020		

Section 1 – Compliance Assessment Summary

This is based on the requirements of the permit under the Environmental Permitting Regulations or the licence under the Water Resources Act 1991 as amended by the Water Act 2003. A detailed explanation is captured in "Compliance Assessment Report Detail" (Section 2) and any actions you may need to take are given in the "Action(s)" (section 4). This summary details where we believe any non-compliance with the permit has occurred, the relevant condition and how the non-compliance has been categorised using our Compliance Classification Scheme (CCS). CCS Scores can be consolidated or suspended where appropriate, to reflect the impact of some non-compliances more accurately. For more details of our CCS scheme, contact your local office.

Permit conditions and compliance summary	CCS Category	Condition(s) breached
C4 - General Management - Storage, handling labelling and Segregation	C3	Permit condition 1.1.1

KEY: See Section 5 for breach categories, suspended scores will be indicated as such.

A = Assessed or assessed in part (no evidence of non-compliance), **X** = Action only,

O = Ongoing non-compliance, not scored.

Number of breaches recorded	1	Total compliance score (see section 5 for scoring scheme)	4
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If the Number of breaches recorded is greater than zero, please see Section 3 for our proposed enforcement response

Section 2 – Compliance Assessment Report Detail

This section contains a report of our findings and will usually include information on:

- The part(s) of the permit that were assessed (eg. Maintenance, training, combustion plant, etc)
- Where the type of assessment was 'Data Review' details of the report/results triggering the assessment
- Any non-compliances identified
- Any non-compliances with directly applicable legislation
- Details of any multiple non-compliances
- Information on the compliance score accrued inc.
- Details of advice given
- Any other areas of concern
- Any actions requested
- Any examples of good practice
- A reference to photos taken

Poeton

Permit BP1772IZ

Site inspection and regulator handover 20th January 2020.

The purpose of this visit was to hand regulation of the site under EPR from Rebecca Green to Geraint Harris. There was no formal agenda for the meeting as it was primarily a comprehensive site inspection.

Poeton provide a wide range of specialist surface finishes for high tech applications, mainly to the aerospace, military and high performance automotive industries. The work is generally in small batches and is processed manually. Processes on site include cyanide, cadmium, electroless (autocatalytic) nickel, anodising, painting, passivation and testing. Due to recent organisational changes at NRW the site has come under the administration of a new regulator and so a handover meeting between NRW and Poeton was conducted. Introductions were made between Poeton employees (Mike Holmes, Ian James, Yan Horton and Jason Hamling) and NRW employees Rebecca Green and Geraint Harris in the newly refurbished Poeton offices.

Poeton have plans to develop and improve the site in 2020. A Reverse Osmosis plant has been installed onsite and once operational will provide Poeton with deionised water. This should reduce the water usage and remove the previous reliance on chemical treatment. The installation of a new effluent treatment plant as well as the installation of a larger silver plating facility has also been planned for 2020. Currently Poeton continues to utilise Chromium Hexavalent based plating processes due to the requirements of its customers. For the same reason the site still utilises Cadmium based surface treatments.

A site tour was undertaken under the guidance of Ian James and Jason Hamling. A full tour of the site was conducted including the NDT and Paint Shop (NDT MPI LPI acid etch inspection and wet painting), the Anodise Shop (degreasing, sulphuric and chromic anodising), Plating Shop (phosphating, Nickel, Tin plus silver copper and cadmium from cyanide solutions) and the effluent treatment plant.

During the tour the hardstanding was seen to be corroded in places. The largest corrosion was located near the Nitric acid tank. Although the degradation wasn't significant enough to pose an environmental incident, site was reminded to maintain the hardstanding and to look to incorporate the remediation this

corrosion within the planned works in 2020.

The rear of the site was inspected last and was found to be in an unacceptable state. Located in this area were two large Biffa skips. The general waste skip was full to the point that the skip could no longer be closed. Additionally, there was a huge pile of general waste piled up adjacent to the skip. There was evidence that vermin had been in the waste with ripped bags and waste on the floor. The Environmental permit for Poeton under the General Management section 1.1.1 states:

1.1.1 The operator shall manage and operate the activities:

a) In accordance with a written management system that identifies and minimises risks of pollution, including those arising from operations, maintenance, accidents incidents, non-conformances, closure and those drawn to the attention of the operator as a result of complaints.

Due to the state of the skip area I am issuing a category 3 breach. Please ensure that the systems and procedures on site are up to date to prevent such incidents from occurring in future. The area in question should be remediated as soon as possible and not allowed to get in this state in the future. I am currently unable to locate a copy of your Environmental Management System (EMS). As a consequence of the breach and for our records please can you forward your latest version of your EMS to NRW.

Additionally, there were two gas cylinders left unsecured in the area between the gas cage and the Biffa skips. These cylinders need to be stored inside the purpose-built gas cylinder cage when not in use. Furthermore, the area appears to have become a general storage area with old equipment and scrap metal being dumped in the area. Please ensure the area is maintained to better standards.

The chemical storage area was also found to be in an unacceptable state. Drums of chemicals should be appropriately labelled, sealed and stored. The segregation of incompatible chemicals should be taken into account when storing mixed chemicals and wastes in one area. In the current state the walk way into the chemical store was blocked with pallets of 25 litre chemical containers. Please ensure this area is improved as a priority.

END.

EPR Compliance Assessment Report

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Section 3 – Enforcement Response

You must take immediate action to rectify any non-compliance and prevent repetition. Non-compliance with your permit conditions constitutes an offence and can result in criminal prosecutions and/or suspension or revocation of a permit. Please read the detailed assessment in Section 2 and the steps you need to take in Section 4 below.

Other than the provision of advice and guidance, at present we do not intend to take further enforcement action in respect of the non-compliance identified above. This does not preclude us from taking enforcement action if further relevant information comes to light or advice isn't followed.

Section 4 – Action(s)

This section summarises the actions identified during the assessment along with the timescales for when they will need to be completed.

Criteria Ref.	CCS Category	Action required/advised	Due Date
See Section 1 above			
C4	C3	1) Clean up the skip area of the site and remove the waste piled up on the floor. 2) Review current operational procedures and management systems and update them to ensure there is no repeat in the future. 3) Email the most recent version of your Environmental Management System to NRW. 4) Improve the condition of the chemical storage area. Remove items the pathways.	10/02/2020

Section 5 – Compliance notes for the Operator

To ensure you correct actual or potential non-compliance we may

- Advise on corrective actions verbally or in writing
- Require you to take specific actions verbally or in writing
- Issue a notice
- Require you to review your procedures or management system
- Change some of the conditions of your permit
- Decide to undertake a full review of your permit

Any breach of a permit condition is an offence and we may take legal action against you

- We will normally provide advice and guidance to assist you to come back into compliance either after an offence is committed or where we consider that an offence is likely to be committed. This is without prejudice to any other enforcement response that we consider may be required.
- Enforcement action can include the issue of a formal caution, prosecution, the service of a notice and/or suspension or revocation of the permit.

See our Enforcement and Civil Sanctions guidance for further information

This report does not relieve the site operator of the responsibility to

- Ensure you comply with the conditions of the permit at all times and prevent pollution of the environment
- Ensure you comply with other legislative provisions which may apply

Non-compliance scores and categories

CCS category	Description	Score
C1	A non-compliance that could have a major environmental effect	60
C2	A non-compliance which could have a significant environmental effect	31
C3	A non-compliance which could have a minor environmental effect	4
C4	A non-compliance which has no potential environmental effect	0.1

Operational Risk Appraisal (Opra) - Compliance assessment findings may affect your Opra score and/or your charges. This score influences the resource we use to assess permit compliance.

Section 6 – General information

Data protection notice

The information on this form will be processed by the Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to fulfil its regulatory and monitoring functions and to maintain the relevant public register(s). The NRW may also use and/or disclose it in connection with:

- Offering/providing you with its literature/services relating to environmental matters
- Consulting with the public, public bodies and other organisations (eg. 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 its service
- Freedom of Information Act/Environmental Regulations request

The NRW may pass it on to its agents/representatives to do these things on its behalf. You should ensure that any persons named on this form are informed of the contents of this data protection notice.

Disclosure of information

The NRW will provide a copy of this report to the public register(s). However, if you consider that any information contained in this report should not be released to the public register(s) on the grounds of commercial confidentiality, you must write to your local area office within fifteen working days of receipt of this form indicating which information it concerns and why it should not be released, giving your reasons in full.

Customer charter

What can I do if I disagree with this compliance assessment report?

If you are unable to resolve the issue with your site officer, you should firstly discuss the matter with officer's line managers using the informal appeals procedure. If you wish to raise your dispute further through our official Complaints and Commendations procedure, phone our general enquiry number 0300 065 3000 (Mon to Fri 08.00 – 18.00) and ask for the Customer Contact team or send an email to enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk. If you are still dissatisfied you can make a complaint to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. For advice on how to complain to the Ombudsman phone their helpline on 0845 607 0987.

Welsh Language

If you would like this form in Welsh please contact your Regulatory Officer.