

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

Site	Alexandra Docks	Permit Ref	QB3093HE		
Operator/Permit holder	South West Wood Products Limited				
Regime	Waste Operations				
Date of assessment	09/07/2020	Time in	10:30	Out	11:15
Assessment type	Site Inspection				
Parts of the permit assessed	A, B, C, D, F and G				
Lead officer's name	Bowder, Alex				
Accompanied by	Burge, Chris				
Recipient's name/position	Tom Dunn, Martin Chubb/ Director, Operations Manager	Date issued	13/07/2020		

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
A1 - Specified by permit	A	
B1 - Infrastructure - Engineering for prevention and control of emissions	X	
B3 - Infrastructure - Site drainage engineering (clean and foul)	A	
B4 - Infrastructure - Containment of stored materials	A	
C1 - General Management - Staff competency/training	A	
C2 - General Management - Management system and operating procedures	A	
C3 - General Management - Materials acceptance	A	
C4 - General Management - Storage, handling labelling and Segregation	A	
D2 - Incident Management - Accidents, emergency and incident planning	C2	3.5.1
F2 - Amenity - Noise	A	
F3 - Amenity - Dust/fibres/particulates and litter	A	
F5 - Amenity - Deposits on road	A	
G2 - Monitoring and Records, Maintenance and Reporting - Records of activity, site diary/journal/events	A	
G4 - Monitoring and Records, Maintenance and Reporting - Reporting and notification to Natural Resources Wales	A	

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)	31
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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

Officer Chris Burge and Senior Officer Alex Bowder attended South West Wood Products Limited (SWWP), Newport Docks yard, NP20 2NP at 10:30 on 09 July 2020 to conduct a routine inspection of the permit **EPR-QB3093HE**. Met with Director Tom Dunn and Operations Manager Martin Chubb who accompanied Officers around the permitted area.

To remind the business following each visit Natural Resources Wales will produce a Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) detailing our comments from the inspection. If we substantiate reasonably foreseeable risks or actual impact to the environment, we can breach the business against your permit conditions which can affect your site banding and annual subsistence fees; this is scored on a Category 1 - 4 basis:

- 1** - Major, serious persistent and/or extensive impact on the environment/people/property
- 2** - Significant impact or effect on the environment/people/property
- 3** - Minor impact or effect on the environment/people/property
- 4** - A non-compliance which has no potential environmental effect

The last NRW inspection was conducted on 10 October 2019.

PERMIT VARIATION

The business has submitted variation (*PAN-010161*) to amend permit EPR-QB3093HE. This plans to extend the permit boundary to the adjacent yard, increase the wood tonnage throughput and to remove certain waste codes from the permit.

Permitting duly made the application on 27 May 2020, which gives a statutory determination date of the 02 September 2020. NRW aim to conclude any determination in advance of the statutory date.

PERMIT NON-COMPLIANCES

CATEGORY 2 BREACH - PERMIT CONDITION 3.5.1

(D2) INCIDENT MANAGEMENT - ACCIDENTS, EMERGENCY AND INCIDENT PLANNING

"The operator shall manage and operate the activities in accordance with a written fire prevention plan using the current, relevant fire prevention plan guidance."

Unprocessed Wood Waste Storage

At the time of inspection, it was evident that the unprocessed wood stockpile in the middle of the yard was excessive in volume and height, as per image 1. The stockpile is usually afforded with a fire break through the material, however this was not possible due to the lack of room available. This deemed the storage non-complaint with SWWP's FPMP. This contradicts what is stated on page 9, Storage Pile Sizes – Section 2.27:

"Wood waste will be stored in piles sizes taking account of NRW FPMP guidance and the operational need and practicality of running the wood processing. The maximum pile sizes are detailed in table 1 below."

Table 1: Pile Sizes

<i>Waste Type - Unprocessed</i>
<i>Max Pile Volume - 2,880m³</i>
<i>Dimensions - 19m x 50m x 4m high</i>
<i>Tonnage - 720</i>

The FPMP guidance sets the maximum storage height of stockpiled waste to **four metres**. This height specification was determined by the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) for general good management practise and stability, to enable the FRS to tackle a fire on site if an incident were to occur. The pile was estimated to be between 5 to 7 metres high at its peak at the time of inspection.



Image 1 – showing unprocessed wood stockpile in the yard excessive in volume and height

It is stated on Page 10, Section 2.29, Storage quantity of SWWP's FPMP that: "The maximum amount of wood storage on site will not exceed 2,000 tonnes."

It was stated that just over 2,000 tonnes of processed and unprocessed wood waste was on site. Whilst NRW appreciate the short turnover cycle of depositing, processing and exporting the material, this storage volume contributed to contradicting the Operator's FPMP and increased the

risk of fire as a result.

It was stated that the business will address the excessive wood storage by quickly processing the stockpile to:

- (i) reduce the height to four metres and;
- (ii) establish a fire break through the pile.

Officers were advised that this would be completed within the next seven days.

ACTION

Please submit photographs showing compliant stockpile dimensions and fire breaks once completed.

- If this is not actioned, NRW will consider issuing an Enforcement Notice under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) 2016 to bring operations back into compliance to reduce the risk of fire.

MATERIAL ACCEPTANCE

It was claimed that the storage volumes were larger than usual due to the temporary lack of material acceptance from the Operator's main outlet Margam Green Energy Plant. It was stated that loads are scheduled to leave site over the next 14 days which will reduce the volumes on site.

ACTION

Please submit please could you provide us with your intended outlets and the associated timelines for the removal of the material currently on site.

CONTINGENCY PLANS

Contingency plans are paramount to ensure excessive stockpiling does not occur. This is essential given the size of the site to ensure fire risk in minimised as much as possible. If the submitted permit variation was issued, the site would be able to move any wood overflow into the increased permit boundary without further breaching permit conditions.

Please note that no waste can be deposited on this area until the variation is officially given to the Operator.

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Quarantine area

The site must allocate a quarantine area that can be used as a designated location to place fire affected waste. Unburnt wastes can be moved into the area for isolation and to help prevent it catching fire. The quarantine area should be within the permitted boundary area of the site and should be large enough to hold at least **50% of the volume of the largest stockpile**. It should also be afforded with a minimum separation distance of six metres around any quarantined waste.

Please ensure an adequate designated quarantine area is always established.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Aside from excessive stockpiling, the management of waste streams on site was orderly. There

was a skip filled with waste metal that is taken away to an authorised facility once full. Processed and unprocessed wood piles were distinctly separated. Officers were shown the sampling station on site that produces results for material moisture content and size. Staff spoke about the fire mitigation methods on site and the temperature monitoring used on stockpiles. There were adequate separation distances between stockpiles and buildings on site.

Officers spoke about whether there was any storage of RDF on site as this was a listed activity on the permit. It was stated that RDF was a historic ABP waste stream and is longer accepted by SWWP. As a result, the waste code is being removed as part of the permit variation.

ADVISORY NOTE - Infrastructure

Officers noted various spots of weakened infrastructure fractures around the yard. This is inevitable wear and tear with heavy-duty machinery on site, however please be mindful to repair these spots to ensure that surface water run-off cannot exit the site via any cracks. This is to ensure any potentially contaminated surface water is fully contained by the drainage system.

WASTE RETURNS

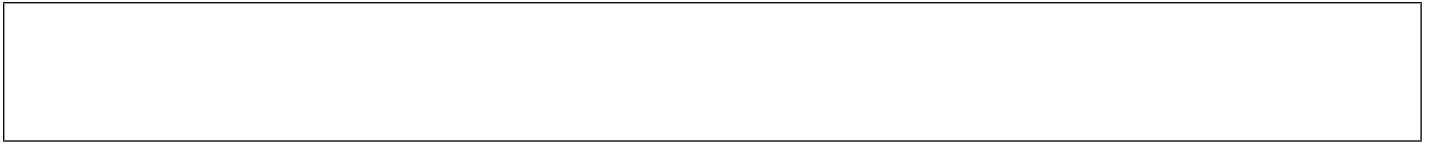
The Q1 Waste Return document for January-March 2020 was submitted on 09 April 2020. This declared that 26,930 tonnes of waste were accepted to site and 31,561 tonnes removed. Materials were mainly classified as packaging waste and transfer station wood.

Please continue the good habit of submitting return data on time.

If you have any issues with this report, please contact Senior Environment Officer Alex Bowder on 0300 065 3394 or alex.bowder@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

Thank you.

In this document 'Natural Resources Wales' means the Natural Resource Body for Wales established by Article 3 of the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Establishment) Order 2012



EPR Compliance Assessment Report

**Report ID:
CAR_NRW0036780**

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

Site	Alexandra Docks	Permit Ref	QB3093HE
Operator/Permit holder	South West Wood Products Limited	Date	09/07/2020

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.

We will now consider what enforcement action is appropriate and notify you, referencing this form.

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			
D2	C2	Reduce the height of stockpiled material to four metres. Establish a fire break through the stockpile to create compliant volumes.	20/07/2020
B1	X	Note to repair any weakened areas of infrastructure to ensure the yard surface is fully sealed.	13/10/2020

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.