

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0036946

Permit being assessed: BB3790FX.

For: ALUK (GB) LTD, held by ALUK (GB) Ltd

At: Aluk GB Ltd, Newhouse Farm Industrial Estate, Mathern, Chepstow, Monmouthshire, NP16 6UD.

Type of assessment carried out: Report/Data Review, Reason: Routine.

On 21/09/2020.

Parts of permit assessed: IC4. Progress with actions from CAR_NRW0036841 & 0036872

NRW Lead Officer: Rebecca Green.

Report sent to: Toby Ambler, Health, Safety & Environmental Manager on 23/09/2020.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
A1 - Specified by permit	Assessed (A)	
B5 - Infrastructure - Plant and equipment	Assessed (A)	
C2 - General Management - Management system and operating procedures	Assessed (A)	
G1 - Monitoring and Records, Maintenance and Reporting - Monitoring of emissions and environment	Assessed (A)	
G3 - Monitoring and Records, Maintenance and Reporting - Maintenance records	Assessed (A)	
G4 - Monitoring and Records, Maintenance and Reporting - Reporting and notification to Natural Resources Wales	Assessed (A)	

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

Total number of 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?

No action required.

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

Improvement Condition IC4 states -

"The Operator shall continue with the programme to implement the use of an on-line continuous aluminium monitor to measure the aluminium in the point source emissions to sewer contained in Table S3.3 of this permit. An interim report shall be submitted to Natural Resources Wales identifying progress towards this by the due date and then again upon completion by the date specified."

The due date for the interim report is 24th December 2020 and for the final report 24th March 2021.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) have received a report from AIUK that meets the reporting requirements, but the aluminium (Al) monitor is still not functioning reliably. NRW feel that while the report submitted fulfils the letter of this Improvement Condition, it does not achieve the aim of having a reliable method for continuous monitoring of the Al discharged to sewer. This IC can be closed when the monitor is re-sited so that air cannot be accidentally drawn into the unit when there is no discharge to sewer.

IC4 is partially complete and will be left open for the time being.

NRW_CAR0036841

Action C2: Ensure information from in-line Al monitor can be retrieved easily, preferably by installing a SCADA system. Due date 30th October 2020.

AIUK have installed a data recoding system which facilitates the easy retrieval of information from the Al monitor. In addition they have introduced a system of manually recording hourly readings from the monitor. While this is not a SCADA system, AIUK may find that it is perfectly adequate to ensure compliance with the emission limit values (ELV) for Al discharges to sewer.

Action 1: Discuss the technical and economic feasibility of installing a SCADA system with NRW. The discussion to be held on or before 30th October 2020.

A report was received on 18th September 2020 which meets the requirements of Action 1. Due to the cost of the system and the present financial situation it is unlikely that the system will be installed before Q3 of 2021. AIUK should take this time to decide whether a SCADA system will offer any significant benefits over the existing system, given its significant cost.

NRW will not insist on the installation of a SCADA system if AIUK demonstrate that the present system can alert them to breaches of the ELV for Al emissions to sewer in a timely manner.

Action C2 and Action 1 are complete and therefore closed.

NRW_CAR0036872

Action B5: Investigate and remedy the reasons for ELV failures related to the filter press.

Due date 25th September.

AIUK have investigated the reasons for ELV failures related to the filter press and discovered some areas for attention. The discoloured discharge could be related to the settlement (decantation) tank or to clogged filter cloths. It is likely that a discoloured discharge contains precipitated Al in a fine particulate form which has not settled out in the settlement tank. This would cause a high Al reading in the discharge to sewer. AIUK propose cleaning the settlement tank by 28th September 2020.

The maintenance of the filter cloths is discussed briefly in the second part of Action 1 below.

Action B5 remains open pending the completion of the second part of Action 1 below. The due date is extended to 30th October 2020.

Action 1: Investigate the reasons for the pressure fluctuations. Review maintenance procedures.

Put corrective actions in place and inform NRW of the outcome by 25th September 2020.

The pressure fluctuations have not recurred, so it has not been possible to discover why they occurred or to put corrective actions in place.

This part of Action 1 is closed, but may be re-opened should the problem recur.

Maintenance procedures have been reviewed but there is no mention of the frequency for checking and/or changing the filter cloths or checking the frames that hold them. These components are critical in ensuring the optimum performance of the filter press, (see Action B5 above).

AIUK should develop a more detailed maintenance procedure for the filter cloths and frames and send it to NRW by 30th October 2020. Once received this part of Action 1 can be closed.

Action 2: Put in place a reliable method for verifying the results from the in-line AI monitor. Ideally the results should be available within 24 hours. Procedure to be in place by 25th September 2020.

NRW received a copy of the procedure on 16th September 2020. It meets the requirements of Action 2.

Action 2 is complete and therefore closed.

END.

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 only relating to the activity assessment
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.

What are suspended scores?

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 and Waste action criteria (used in section 1 and 2):

A: Permitted activities

- A1 Specified by permit

B: Infrastructure

- B1 Infrastructure – Engineering for prevention and control of emissions
- B2 Infrastructure – Closure and decommissioning
- B3 Infrastructure – Site drainage engineering (clean and foul)
- B4 Infrastructure – Containment of stored materials
- B5 Infrastructure – Plant and equipment

C: General management

- C1 General management – Staff competency/training
- C2 General management – Management system and operating procedures
- C3 General management – Materials acceptance
- C4 General management – Storage, handling, labelling and segregation

D: Incident management

- D1 Incident management – Site security
- D2 Incident management – Accidents, emergency and incident planning

E: Emissions

- E1 Emissions – Air
- E2 Emissions – Land and groundwater
- E3 Emissions – Surface water
- E4 Emissions – Sewer
- E5 Emissions – Waste

F: Amenity

- F1 Amenity – Odour
- F2 Amenity – Noise
- F3 Amenity – Dust/fibres/particulates and litter
- F4 Amenity – Pests/birds and scavengers
- F5 Amenity – Deposits on road

G: Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting

- G1 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Monitoring of emissions and environment
- G2 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Records of activity, site diary/journal/events
- G3 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Maintenance records
- G4 Monitoring and records, maintenance and reporting – Reporting and notification to Natural Resources Wales

H: Resources efficiency

- H1 Resource efficiency – Efficient use of raw materials
- H2 Resource efficiency – Energy efficiency

Enforcement response

Any permit condition non-compliance 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 20 working days to let you know if we agree to your request.

What do I do if I disagree with the report or have a complaint?

If you disagree with this compliance assessment report, you should contact the lead officer without delay to discuss your concerns.

If you are unable to resolve the issue with the lead officer or their line manager you should contact our Customer Contact team on 0300 065 3000 (Monday to Friday 08:00 – 18:00), or email enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk for details of how to raise your dispute further through our Complaints and Commendations procedure.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you can contact the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales by phone on 0300 7900203 or by email at 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.