

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0036995

Permit being assessed: HB3490HK.

For: Abertawe Metals Ltd Transfer Station, held by Abertawe Metal Recycling Limited
At: Abertawe Metals Ltd Transfer Station, Dyffryn Close, Swansea Enterprise Park,
Swansea, Swansea, SA6 8QG.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection, Reason: Routine.

On 25/09/2020 between 10:00 and 12:00.

Parts of permit assessed: A, B, C, D, F

NRW Lead Officer: David Morgan, accompanied by James Kinhead.

Report sent to: James Lerner, Technical Competent Manager on 02/10/2020.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
B3 - Infrastructure - Site drainage engineering (clean and foul)	C3 Minor	2.3.1

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

Total number of 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
B3	Ensure all areas where waste is stored benefit from an impermeable surface and sealed drainage system	01/04/2021

Action 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.

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

A routine site inspection was undertaken on Friday 25th October 2020. The purpose of the inspection was to

assess compliance with areas of the permitted operation that were assessed as non-compliant in previous inspections (08/12/2018, 05/02/2019 and 04/11/2019).

At the time of the inspection the Technical Competent Manager for the site suggested there had been a mechanical failure with de-pollution equipment, and that this had resulted in a back-up of un-depolluted cars being stored on site.

The main yard itself appeared to be almost at capacity. The site surfacing in some areas of the yard was damaged but there did not appear to be a significant discharge of leachate into the ground. There was minor pooling of water that was contaminated with oil. This is a non-compliance of the Environmental Permit.

Also, it is noted that there is an ongoing area of non-compliance in relation to the extra storage yard. This area is now within the permitted boundary but does not benefit from an impermeable surface and sealed drainage system, as is required by the Environmental Permit. At the time of the inspection there was a minor amount of waste (tyre bales), and approximately 10 un-depolluted vehicles stored in this area, and there did not appear to be any environmental impact from storing waste in this area.



A non-compliance was recorded against Condition 2.3.1 of the Environmental Permit (Category 3 – Minor) (Ref:B3)

The Environmental Permit states that *“Storage of all non-hazardous waste shall be on an impermeable surface with sealed drainage.”* On this occasion waste was being stored in areas of the yard where there was no impermeable surface with sealed drainage system. However, there appeared to be only very minor potential impact on the environment.

The de-pollution bay was non-operational at the time of the visit although this area appeared to be free from any spillages/leaks and appeared to be very well maintained.

It was agreed that the operator would undertake an inspection of the site boundary to ensure waste had not escaped site (waste from stacks of metal and vehicles etc.).

The remaining areas of the yard, not mentioned in the comments above, appeared to be very well maintained and in good working order. Although at almost full capacity, the site appeared to be very well organised and separate wastes were clearly segregated and organised.

It was suggested that a future inspection may involve officers reviewing documentation related to site operations including Waste Transfer Notes, Consignment Notes etc.

Thank you for your time during the inspection.

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.