

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0038821

Permit being assessed: AP3433ES.

For: Dowlais Slaughterhouse EPR/AP3433ES, held by Kepak Group Limited

At: Pengarnddu Industrial Estate Dowlais Top , Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales, CF48 2TA.

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

On 07/09/2021 between 09:00 and 17:00.

Parts of permit assessed: Activities

NRW Lead Officer: Mostyn Wall, accompanied by Lewis Evans.

Report sent to: Paul Williams, Assistant Technical Manager on 20/10/2021.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
B5 - Infrastructure - Plant and equipment	Action only (X)	
B5 - Infrastructure - Plant and equipment	Action only (X)	
B4 - Infrastructure - Containment of stored materials	Action only (X)	
B4 - Infrastructure - Containment of stored materials	Action only (X)	
E4 - Emissions - Sewer	Action only (X)	
E1 - Emissions - Air	C3 Minor	2.1.2
E4 - Emissions - Sewer	C3 Minor	6.4.2

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

Total number of 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
B5	Site to inform NRW when the ETP building refurbishment is completed	30/11/2021
B5	Site to forward the maintenance schedules for the main building, as well as records and reports from the last building inspection for the site.	08/11/2021
B4	Site to evaluate secondary bunding on the tanks in line with current CIRIA guidance and identify any shortcomings. Previous inspection reports to be made available for the next site inspection.	08/11/2021
B4	Site to forward documents detailing the preventative	08/11/2021

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
	maintenance (Pirana system) of the equalization tanks as outlined in EMS document 39. Send in a copy of the records and reports from the last inspection of the equalization and sludge tank.	
E4	Site to investigate moving the odour logger and temperature sensor to a location further upstream from the current location to isolate the process effluent from site sewage. This would enable more accurate readings.	08/11/2021
E1	Site to send details of the refrigeration maintenance schedule for the site with dates for next service.	08/11/2021
E4	Site to send in the effluent treatment dosing records for July 2021 to further investigate the cause of the breach. Also, send in external lab results for the week in question with the comments from Aquatreat on what may have caused this exceedance and ways that it can be prevented in the future.	08/11/2021

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

Sitte visit

A Scheduled routine Inspection was carried out on site by NRW Officers on the 7th September 2021.

The weather was hot and sunny with no wind. Paul Williams and Stuart Houghton representing Kepak hosted the Inspection and talked through the Operations on site. The aim was to get an introduction to the installation and the various activities present.

Site Tour

The tour started with a presentation of the operations and history of the site. The tour moved outside to see the lairage area as well as effluent pits 1,2,3 & 4. No odours were identified at storage pits. From here, the effluent is pumped into the effluent treatment plant

(ETP) building.

ETP Building

The ETP building is of poor condition with visible damage and holes on the western wall adjacent to the screen pit caused by forklift truck movement of waste from the screen pit container. The roof and structural supports of the ETP building was seen to have corroded, with multiple holes in the roof showing through together with displaced metal beams. The holes in the roof potentially allow for odours to escape from the process and are evidence of poor maintenance of the building. The building was undergoing repairs at the time of the inspection with a new roof and walls which are scheduled to be completed by Mid-November. This was seen as a positive development. The state of the building had reached the level of being structurally unsafe and not in compliance to BAT standards or permit conditions. Preventative maintenance should have intervened prior to the falling into disrepair.

Action: Site to inform NRW when the ETP building refurbishment is completed.

NRW will schedule a secondary Inspection shortly after this time.

Action: Site to forward the maintenance schedules for the main building, as well as records and reports from the last building inspection for the site.

The run-down screen removes large particles before the effluent enters the two 200m³ equalization tanks. The run-down screen is cleaned with a jet wash hose to clear debris. Debris and material from the jet washing is present on the internal building wall.

Equalization Tanks

The two large equalization tanks are located outside the ETP building and are not bunded according to the CIRIA C736 guidance. Site should evaluate the shortcomings of the present situation against the guidance and draw up an improvement plan to meet the minimum standards required. An evaluation should be completed for the next site inspection. Results of the last inspection report should also be made available.

Action: Site to evaluate secondary bunding on the tanks in line with current CIRIA

guidance and identify any shortcomings. Previous inspection reports to be made available for the next site inspection.

The EMS document 39 details the emergency procedure in the event of spillage from the equalization tanks.

Sludge, Equalization tanks & DAF Plant

The DAF tank was being covered by a temporary roof while the ETP building was being repaired. The sludge from the DAF is scraped off into the sludge tank that is located outside. The sludge tank is emptied by a contractor with an alarm system that indicates when the tank reaches capacity. The sludge tank sits outside the ETP building and therefore also outside the bunded area.

No odour was detected outside the ETP building. The manhole cover was seen at the point where the effluent from the ETP enters the pumping station. The sewer had a mild sewer type odour. No indication of hydrogen sulphide was detected.

Action: Site to forward documents detailing the preventative maintenance (Pirana system) of the equalization tanks as outlined in EMS document 39. Send in a copy of the records and reports from the last inspection of the equalization and sludge tank.

Sampling Points

The steps down to sampling points W1, W2 and S1 were well maintained and gave good access to sampling points.

Site Condition

There was no evidence of vermin, birds, pests, excess noise, or excess odour experienced around the site. The security arrangements were solid and thorough.

Effluent Point S1

Site confirmed the location of the Odour logger and temperature gauge is located at S1 – the same point where site sewage meets the exit point from the permitted site. This means that the site readings may include site effluent as well as site sewage which is not counted as process effluent. NRW are therefore asking site to move the temperature and odour logging gauges further upstream to separate the readings for process effluent only.

Action. Site to investigate moving the odour logger and temperature sensor to a location further upstream from the current location to isolate the process effluent from site sewage. This would enable more accurate readings.

F gas breach

The site reported a F gas release via a Schedule 1 notification on the 28th June 2021. A leak was detected as part of routine refrigerator maintenance. An estimated 312 kg of R404AR was released into the atmosphere. The condenser and recovery heat exchanger have been subsequently repaired and the system topped up with R404AR refrigerant.

The CO₂ equivalence is estimated to be:

F gas 404AR – 312kg (CO₂ equivalence 3,922) = 1,223 tCO₂ equivalence

NRW considers the F gas release to be a Category 3 permit condition breach as it has a minor impact on the environment. The root score is the losses through venting in joints and pipes controlled through permit condition 2.1.2 which states; *'All plant, equipment and technical means used in operating the permitted installation shall be maintained in good operating condition'*

Decision. NRW record a Category 3 noncompliance of permit condition 2.1.2 for a fugitive F GAS release to atmosphere of 1,223 tonnes of CO₂ equivalence which carries a minor effect on the environment.

Action. Site to send details of the refrigeration maintenance schedule for the site with dates for next service.

Emission to sewer breach

The site sent in a schedule 1 Part A and B on the 10/08/2021 detailing the breach of the emission to sewer limit for fats, oils and grease. The emission was recorded as 158 mg/l against the permitted limit of 100 mg/l on the 21/07/2021.

Decision NRW record a Category 3 noncompliance of permit condition 6.4.2 for exceeding the permit limit for surface water oils and grease on 21/07/21.

Action: Site to send in the effluent treatment dosing records for July 2021 to further investigate the cause of the breach. Also, send in external lab results for the week in question with the comments from Aquatreat on what may have caused this exceedance and ways that it can be prevented in the future.

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.