

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0039422

Permit being assessed: BB3299FN.

For: SL Recycling Ltd, held by SL Recycling LTD

At: Unit 1, Pontyfelin Industrial Estate, New Inn, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 0DQ.

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

On 11/02/2022 between 10:30 and 11:30.

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

NRW Lead Officer: Alex Bowder, accompanied by Jak Rose.

Report sent to: Becky Tucker, Stacey Lewis, Gareth Danter-Hill, Technically Competent Manager, Business Director and Environmental Consultant on 02/03/2022.

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)	
B1 - Infrastructure - Engineering for prevention and control of emissions	Assessed (A)	
B3 - Infrastructure - Site drainage engineering (clean and foul)	Assessed (A)	
B4 - Infrastructure - Containment of stored materials	Assessed (A)	
C1 - General Management - Staff competency/training	Assessed (A)	
C2 - General Management - Management system and operating procedures	Assessed (A)	
C3 - General Management - Materials acceptance	Assessed (A)	
C4 - General Management - Storage, handling labelling and Segregation	Assessed (A)	
D1 - Incident Management - Site security	Assessed (A)	
D2 - Incident Management - Accidents, emergency and incident planning	Assessed (A)	
F1 - Amenity - Odour	Assessed (A)	
F2 - Amenity - Noise	Assessed (A)	
F3 - Amenity - Dust/fibres/particulates and litter	Assessed (A)	
F4 - Amenity - Pests/birds and scavengers	Assessed (A)	
F5 - Amenity - Deposits on road	Assessed (A)	
G2 - Monitoring and Records, Maintenance and Reporting - Records of activity, site diary/journal/events	Assessed (A)	
G4 - Monitoring and Records, Maintenance	Assessed (A)	

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
and Reporting - Reporting and notification to Natural Resources Wales		

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.

You are non-compliant with your permit.

We are currently considering taking enforcement action against you for the non-compliance recorded above. We will contact you in due course.

4. Details of our assessment

*This compliance report details the site inspection conducted by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Officers on 11 February 2022 at S L Recycling Limited, Pontyfelin Industrial Estate, Pontypool, NP4 0DQ - Permit number **EPR-BB3299FN**.*

Senior Officer Alex BOWDER and Officer Jak ROSE attended S L Recycling Limited at 10:30 to conduct the Quarter 4 site inspection of the permit. Becky TUCKER (Technically Competent Manager), Ryan Hill (Site Manager) and Environmental Focus Consultant Gareth DANTER-HILL accompanied Officers around the permitted area. Stacey LEWIS (Business Director) was not present. Weather conditions were dry and mild at the time of inspection.

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS VISIT - 10 November 2021

- Store mixed general waste within the building - **COMPLETE**
- Reduce all stockpiled waste exceeding four metres in height - **COMPLETE**

WASTE ACTIVITIES AND PERMIT COMPLIANCE

It was encouraging to see that the previous compliance visit actions had been carried out. There were no non-compliances noted with regard to excessive storage of waste across the permitted area, particularly stockpile height. Housekeeping throughout the yard was generally quite orderly; Officers commented that this was an improvement on the waste stream management.

A new office unit has been constructed to the west of the entrance joining the car parking area. The remaining entrance unit will now be used primarily for weighbridge ticketing.

DRAINAGE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

At the time of the inspection, the flooring in front of the primary waste metal stockpile was being repaired. Infrastructure restoration is done on an ad hoc basis when weakened areas or fractures in the yard surface appear. No issues were noted with the drains or interceptor system across the yard. Questions were asked as to how often the system is serviced and what measures are in place to check the system is functioning.

TRANSFER STATION ACTIVITIES

The general waste pile was all stored under the canopy - please keep this waste volume level managed going forward. Waste streams were separated into different bays before being transported to various outlets for disposal. Officers reminded the operator to continue managing waste inputs so that they do not exceed this tonnage volume. This relates to rejecting material if it cannot reasonably fit under the shelter roofing. There were no concerns from a fire risk perspective at the time of inspection.



Image 1 - General waste stored under the building canopy

Baled cardboard was stored within the buildings on site. Officers noticed IBCs containing empty paint cans with residual liquid in them. These were said to be non-hazardous, water-based emulsions. Officers mentioned that hazardous wastes cannot be accepted under the transfer station permit conditions. An audit of waste return submissions will be conducted later in the year.

METAL RECYCLING

Officers inspected the non-ferrous metal shed where there were no issues noted with the treatment or storage of materials. The shredder was not operational at the time of inspection. It was mentioned that the outside treatment method of shredding is still an unpermitted activity under current conditions, however the submitted bespoke application aims to license such activities - please see previous compliance report for further details.

The primary waste metal stockpile stored centrally within the yard was compliant in terms of its overall volume and dimension i.e. height and separation distance from neighbouring piles. Officers were shown the various graded metal products having been through the shredding process which were stored in distinct piles. Residual waste produced as non-recyclable material from the process is stored, bulked up and then sent to landfill for

disposal.

Metal stockpiles were not excessively over the 4m height restriction at the time of inspection. Officers stated to keep volumes at this manageable level going forward, and that this level of material should be the standard to adhere to future.



Image 2 – waste metal stockpile deposited in the yard ready for processing

END-OF-LIFE VEHICLE DEPOLLUTION

There were no issues noted with the depollution bay and vehicle storage area. All work was being carried out within the designated shelter and the stacking/storage of shells was generally being managed well. Extracted hazardous elements such as oils and fuels were being appropriately stored ready for removal via an appropriate contractor. Comments with regard to the consignment of these hazardous wastes were given, stating that these should be documented and sent in-line with the hazardous waste regulations.

Tyres are removed from vehicles, stored and bulked up together before being taken to an appropriate contractor.

PERMIT APPLICATION

A bespoke permit application has been submitted to incorporate all permits and include the outside treatment of wood / shredding metal activity. This is now being determined by the permitting department. The Noise Impact Assessment conducted by Hunter Acoustics - reference 5852/NIA3_NRW has been submitted as part of the application. An evaluation of this report will be given as part of the permit determination process.

NOISE MITIGATION MEASURES

The Operator has purchased concrete wall stockades with the intention to create a barrier around the shredder. This is to absorb some of the noise and vibration wavelengths to lessen any excessive noise from leaving the site boundary. These have yet to be constructed due to the operator waiting for builder contractor availability to do the work - please would the operator provide NRW with timescales for completion.

The operator is continuing to deposit waste metal around the shredder to act as a further sound barrier. Again, the Officer raised the point to not allow the excessive storage height/volume of material in order to carry out this containment purpose. It was mentioned that operations should be always carried out using appropriate measures to minimise the

sounds created.

EXPLOSION EVENTS

It is evident that the operator has implemented control measures to prevent unwanted wastes entering the shredder feedstock. Officers were shown the various checkpoint stations, and the gas cylinders removed and quarantined as a result of the checks. Please would the operator ensure that NRW are notified immediately after an explosion event to account for the occurrence.



Image 3 - showing removed and quarantined gas cannisters from stockpiles

ACTIVE MONITORING

NRW have been conducting active monitoring of the site's activities to assess whether there are any impacts to the surrounding environments. This has involved investigating whether there is unreasonable noise or odour from the permitted activities leaving the site boundary, and whether they are perceived to be disruptive or excessive. If noise or odour is deemed to be excessive, Officers would try and establish the source of the issue and assess whether the operator is carrying out appropriate measures on site.

These visits have been conducted by warranted NRW Officers carrying out their duties under Section 108 of the Environment Act 1995. Please note, NRW Officers are not obligated to give notice to operators or make themselves known when conducting such monitoring activities. This is in order to gain a true reflection of the activities on site; photographic evidence can be taken without the operator's knowledge of our presence and are not required to enter the site. NRW will be continuing to conduct these monitoring exercises to assess the compliance with permit conditions, however will communicate our findings with the operator to attempt to address these issues in real time.

If you have any issues with this report, please contact Officer Alex Bowder at Alex.Bowder@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.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

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.