

# Permitting decisions

## Surrender

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We have decided to accept the surrender of the permit for **Ramsbottom Soap Works** operated by **Kay's (Ramsbottom) Limited**.

The permit number is **EPR/WP3339LW**

We are satisfied that the necessary measures have been taken to avoid any pollution risk and to return the site to a satisfactory state. We consider in reaching that decision we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements.

### Purpose of this document

This decision document provides a record of the decision making process. It:

- Provides an overview of the site and operational monitoring programme
- highlights [key issues](#) in the determination
- summarises the decision making process in the [decision checklist](#) to show how all relevant factors have been taken into account

Unless the decision document specifies otherwise we have accepted the applicant's proposals.

Read the permitting decisions in conjunction with the environmental permit and the surrender notice. The introductory note summarises what the notice covers.

### Site overview and operational monitoring programme

The site is located in Ramsbottom near Bury. The National Grid Reference for the site is SD 7941 1715. The installation undertook a chemical process permitted under the following scheduled activity:

Table S1.1 activities		
Activity listed in Schedule 1 of the EPR Regulations	Description of specified activity	Limits of specified activity
S4.1 A(1) (a)(xi)	Manufacture of Surface Active Agents	From receipt of raw materials to dispatch of products
<b>Directly Associated Activity</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raw material storage and transfer</li> <li>- Drying of raw soap</li> <li>- Waste storage</li> <li>- Boiler</li> </ul>	

This installation was permitted as a low impact installation, complying with all the relevant criteria. The original permit application site condition report was accepted without the requirement for baseline reporting data.

The site was permitted in June 2007 and operations ceased in December 2016.

There has been no change to the installation boundary since the original permit issue. The variation EPR/WP3339LW/V002 was linked to various minor administration changes to update emissions to surface water and sewer permit tables.

The operator went into administration in October 2016, but remains a legal entity.

**The operator has stated in their surrender site condition report that all materials linked to the installation have been removed and equipment cleaned.**

Decommissioning steps taken in more detail:

- Caustic tanks were emptied during final production and subsequently flushed through completely, and are now empty. Bunded area around the Caustic tanks have been cleaned. All bunds remain in situ and are complete and sealed.
- Fat and soap holding tanks were also all emptied during final processing and have been scraped and cleaned.
- Gas Oil and other storage tanks in the yard have been emptied and removed; bunds have been cleaned and then removed.
- All yard areas have been swept.
- Overhead pipework and ducting that was heavily soiled with soap and fat debris have been removed.
- Overhead support structures over the processing and tank areas have been scraped and cleaned to remove major soap and fat debris that had built up.
- Machinery from within powder room area has been removed, floors scraped and cleaned.
- All other floor areas and bund areas have been swept, cleaned and inspected for damage, with no issues discovered.
- The decommissioning has had no impact on the land. All bunds are secure. The cleaning process has led to complete surface inspection of the entire site.

Our compliance team has carried out a site inspection dated 13/06/17 confirming equipment had been cleaned and materials removed. The surfacing was stated to be in good condition, except for some slight cracks, deemed not to be a risk to groundwater and land contamination.

## Key issues of the decision

The key issue for this determination is whether the operator has demonstrated that the legal test for surrender has been met in that the necessary measures have been undertaken to **avoid a pollution risk** resulting from the operation of the regulated facility and return the site of the regulated facility to a **satisfactory state**, having regard to the state of the site before the facility was put into operation.

Records of pollution and Incidents

The desk study has identified no ground water or land contamination. There was an incident linked to a dust emission in 2009. We assessed the risk and confirmed we accepted their remedial actions including operating procedure improvements and that we did not consider there was a risk of ground water and land contamination. Therefore it was concluded by ourselves that no further land or ground remediation is required.

## Decision checklist

Aspect considered	Decision
<b>Receipt of application</b>	
Confidential information	A claim for commercial or industrial confidentiality has not been made.
Identifying confidential information	We have not identified information provided as part of the application that we consider to be confidential.
<b>The site</b>	
Pollution risk	We are satisfied that the necessary measures have been taken to avoid a pollution risk resulting from the operation of the regulated facility.
Satisfactory state	<p>We are satisfied that the necessary measures have been taken to return the site of the regulated facility to a satisfactory state.</p> <p>In coming to this decision we have had regard to the state of the site before the facility was put into operation.</p>