

Permitting decisions

Bespoke permit

We have decided to grant the permit for DFI Crewe operated by Dairygold Food Ingredients (UK) Limited. The permit number is EPR/CP3538JY.

We consider in reaching that decision we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements and that the permit will ensure that the appropriate level of environmental protection is provided.

Purpose of this document

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

- 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
- shows how we have considered the [consultation responses](#).

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

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

Key issues of the decision

Main features of the installation

Dairygold Food Ingredients (DFI) provides quality cheese solutions to a diverse range of food companies. DFI in Crewe, format cheese for the manufacturing, food service and wholesale sectors of the market. Raw materials include cheddar, mozzarella and territorial cheese that are grated, diced, sliced and blended with potato starch and/or crumb. Some items are purchased and traded without any processing on site as part of client services.

The refrigeration areas of the site are chilled using Trane Chiller (Glycol) and Air Handling Units (AHUs). The offices are heated and cooled using small air-conditioning units. The refrigeration systems are maintained by a third party specialist, and records are kept in an Fgas folder. Condensate from the Aircon units is collected or piped directly into the foul drains. Modified atmosphere packing (MAP) is used on site in the form of 100% Nitrogen and 80%N₂/20%CO₂ gas flushing. Main shred MAP is supplied by a nitrogen generator. SPD MAP is supplied by liquid nitrogen which is stored in a pressure vessel on the side of the building. CO₂ is supplied in gas bottles which are stored outside of the SPD building.

The production halls are fitted with catch-pots to collect debris. Fat traps are installed outside both production areas to collect solid waste from cleaning/production areas, before discharge to foul sewer. Solid waste is sent away for anaerobic digestion. Surface water is discharged to a small brook on Macon Way. Fat traps are emptied every 2-3 months, and tested every 3 months approximately.

Hot water supplies for the main shred building is heated in a gas boiler with a thermal rated input of 0.26MW. Hot water supplies to the SPD building are supplied by a diesel-fuelled jet wash machine which is housed in a small plant room on the side of the SPD building. There is a second diesel-fuelled jet wash machine which pumps cold water to a power hose to wash dirty plastic pallets, although the operator employs Commonwealth Handling Equipment Pool (CHEP) to provide clean pallets. The self-bunded diesel tank is located at the rear of the fork lift truck tractor shed.

Cleaning in the production areas takes place once per week. Listeria is a high risk contamination which is controlled with the minimal use of water to clean. Clean-downs in between product changes are facilitated with sanitising wipes. The blades are washed in a sink at product change. Cleaning is completed by an external contractor. There is a small room adjacent to each production hall where chemicals are stored on suitable bunds. External drains are painted blue for surface water and red for foul. There are no surface water drains inside the building.

The warehouse has two dock-levellers to accept deliveries and to load wagons for dispatch. Approximately 19-24 wagons are loaded and unloaded per day. There is a designated area for food waste which is plastic wrapped and sealed. Every one to three months, cheese waste is collected by the waste contractor and taken away for anaerobic digestion. Cheese waste that is fit for human consumption, but cannot be used on site is sold to cheese powdering businesses. Waste cheese is wrapped and sealed and stored at refrigerated temperatures. Electric fork lift trucks are used on site to marshal product to their designated area or to and from production.

Two compactors are located in the yard to compact general waste and segregated cardboard. A licensed waste contractor is employed to remove waste from the site on a regular basis. There is a container for WEEE waste and fluorescent tubes, skips for metal and wood, and drums for toner cartridges, oily rags and batteries. The yard is kept swept and tidy.

The site is fitted with a fire detection system and fire extinguishers. The alarm is tested weekly.

There are two plastic sheds on the perimeter of the site at the front which store sand bags, rope and drain mats to be used in the event of a flood, spill or if fire water is used. Spill kits are located in the warehouse, tractor shed and chemical stores.

The site employs a pest control specialist.

There is a small test kitchen in the SPD building which enables DFI or suppliers to cook a range of samples to assist customers in their choice of product.

The company has the health mark UK AX007 EC and is a member of Campden BRI & Sedex, and has BRC AA and BS ISO:14001:2015 accreditations.

The application submission contains a number of supporting documents that describe the controls and operating techniques at the installation, having regard for Best Available Technique (BAT) requirements, as specified in our guidance, and to ensure compliance with the environmental permit conditions. These key controls and techniques are described in the following sections.

General Management

The site operates under an ISO14001 accredited Environmental Management System (EMS). Each section of the EMS describes how DFI operates to meet our compliance obligations and to protect the environment from their business activities. In addition, the EMS includes policies, procedures, maps and tables that enable DFI to effectively identify and manage potential incidents. This is monitored by 2 or 3 BSI audits of the EMS per year, and an internal audit program. Each section of the EMS will be audited at least once per year against the requirements of the Standard. The management team meet regularly to discuss the environmental performance of the site and follow the 14001 prescribed meeting agenda to ensure that all aspects are addressed and discussed.

Odour

Cheese is kept in sealed film wrap unless it is inside the production hall. There is no effluent treatment plant, only two 1.7m³ fat traps which are emptied regularly. There are no known odour complaints about this site from neighbours or visitors that an odour can be detected outside the site boundary. At this time we are satisfied that a site specific Odour Management Plan (OMP) is not required beyond the controls detailed in the management systems. However, the permit conditions 3.3 contain a provision for the Environment Agency to request the applicant to produce and implement an OMP should the activities give rise to pollution caused by odour beyond the installation boundary.

Noise and Vibration

The installation has the potential to emit noise from the operations undertaken on site and the plant used. However, there are no known noise complaints about this site. At this time we are satisfied that a site specific Noise Management Plan (NMP) is not required beyond the controls detailed in the management systems. However, the permit conditions 3.4 contain a provision for the Environment Agency to request the applicant to produce and implement a NMP should the activities give rise to pollution caused by noise and/or vibration beyond the installation boundary.

Fugitive emissions

The applicant states that the site has been designed to limit the risk of substances inadvertently entering surface water, foul drainage systems, groundwater or air. Liquids are stored in appropriate containers in bunded areas or on hardstanding in designated storage areas. The Environment Agency agree with the principle of the risk assessment submitted and that operations are managed such that losses are avoided.

The operator has identified that there is no bunding or containment in place should the glycol tank leak. The glycol is housed on a thick concrete platform at the rear of the site close to a wooded copse and a network of surface drains. The operator has sought quotes to contain a potential leak of glycol. The Environment Agency are satisfied that BAT will be achieved once containment or drainage has been installed. This has been included in the permit as an improvement condition.

Point source emissions

Atmospheric emissions

There are no emissions to air via the production process (No LEV, flues, windows or vents in any of our production areas etc.) Hot water supplies for the main shred building is heated in a gas boiler with a thermal

rated input of 0.26MW (emission point A1) and therefore falls below the requirements of the Medium Combustion Plant Directive.

Surface Water/Sewer Discharges

In terms of point source emissions to water, the installation does not generate a significant amount of process effluent. Equipment cleaning is normally dry and wet cleaning only takes place once per week and discharged to foul sewer. Due to the low volume of trade effluent BOD is not measured by DFI or United Utilities.

There are no direct or indirect process emissions to groundwater from the activities operated at the installation.

Efficiency

Raw materials

Blocks of cheese are received from Dairygold and third party producers (circa 55% from Dairygold cheese production sites in Ireland) with a full range of cheddar and other cheese varieties processed. Whey waste does not contain sufficient protein to be sold directly for anaerobic digestion. It discharges to underground tanks and is collected when full. Solid matter is separated from liquid off-site and pressed until it is suitable for anaerobic digestion. The dirty water is discharged to the foul sewer.

Solid waste collected from the production area prior to clean-downs and deep-cleans is bagged. Cheese fit for human consumption is sold for cheese powdering. Cheese unfit for human consumption is collected for anaerobic digestion.

Waste handling

The installation generates and subsequently handles only small quantities of waste. As part of the management system these wastes are appropriately handled, segregated and stored on site according to type. The waste storage areas are appropriately designed and maintained. These areas have adequate capacity for the quantity of wastes generated.

Waste recover/disposal

Water is only used where and when necessary. This is to reduce/eliminate the growth of Listeria as per British Retail Consortium (BRC) requirements. Cleaning waste-water cannot be re-used as there is nothing else it could be re-used for other than yard washing and this is required infrequently. As a processor of hard cheese, the biggest food safety risk is listeria, which is commonly known to travel in water. This is why minimal water is used on site and only one wet clean per week is performed. If this water was used to clean the yard, it would need to be stored for long periods of time and therefore would present a high risk to food safety standards, along with the high risk of odour and attraction to pests.

Mixed municipal waste is collected from around the site and the production areas and taken to the yard where it is loaded in to the compactor. When the compactor is full, it is collected by the Waste Contractor and it is taken away to be processed into Refuse-Derived Fuel RDF. RDF consists largely of combustible components of such wastes, as non-recyclable plastics (not including PVC), paper cardboard, labels, and other corrugated materials. These fractions are separated by different processing steps, such as screening, air classification, ballistic separation, separation of ferrous and non-ferrous materials, glass, stones and other foreign materials and shredding into a uniform grain size, in order to produce a homogeneous material which can be used as substitute for fossil fuels in e.g. cement plants, lime plants, coal fired power plants or as reduction Agent in Steel Furnaces. Approximately 2% of general waste cannot be processed into RDF and will be sent to landfill.

Dry Mixed Recyclables are segregated in office areas. Waste is placed in clear plastic bags and stored in the yard in a separate waste bins. This waste is collected by the waste contractor and taken to their depot to be sorted and recycled.

Hazardous waste such as, fluorescent tubes, and WEEE Electrical waste etc., is collected at adhoc intervals depending on the quantity of waste produced. This waste is stored in drums in the yard.

Energy

The applicant has a Climate Change Levy Agreement (CCA) in place for the installation and detailed energy efficiency data is recorded.

Decision checklist

Aspect considered	Decision
Receipt of application	
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.
Consultation	
Consultation	<p>The consultation requirements were identified in accordance with the Environmental Permitting Regulations and our public participation statement.</p> <p>The application was publicised on the GOV.UK website.</p> <p>We consulted the following organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authority – Planning • Local Authority – Environmental Health • Health and Safety Executive • United Utilities • Director of Public Health • Director of Public Health England <p>The comments and our responses are summarised in the consultation section.</p>
Operator	
Control of the facility	We are satisfied that the applicant (now the operator) is the person who will have control over the operation of the facility after the grant of the permit. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on legal operator for environmental permits.
The facility	
The regulated facility	<p>We considered the extent and nature of the facility at the site in accordance with RGN2 'Understanding the meaning of regulated facility', Appendix 2 of RGN 2 'Defining the scope of the installation' and Appendix 1 of RGN 2 'Interpretation of Schedule 1'.</p> <p>The extent of the facility is defined in the site plan and in the permit. The activities are defined in table S1.1 of the permit.</p>
The site	
Extent of the site of the facility	The operator has provided a plans which we consider is satisfactory, showing the extent of the site of the facility. The plan is included in the permit.
Site condition report	The operator has provided a description of the condition of the site, which we consider is satisfactory. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on site condition reports and baseline reporting under the Industrial

Aspect considered	Decision
	<p>Emissions Directive.</p> <p>No baseline data has been collected. DFI are willing to take the slight risk that upon surrender.</p> <p>Under the Industrial Emissions Directive, the site will undertake 5yr Groundwater and 10year Soil Sample tests. It is proposed to undertake these in the first instance during a planning application to remodel the site.</p>
<p>Biodiversity, heritage, landscape and nature conservation</p>	<p>The application is within the relevant distance criteria of a site of heritage, landscape or nature conservation, and/or protected species or habitat.</p> <p>We have assessed the application and its potential to affect all known sites of nature conservation, landscape and heritage and/or protected species or habitats identified in the nature conservation screening report as part of the permitting process.</p> <p>We consider that the application will not affect any sites of nature conservation, landscape and heritage, and/or protected species or habitats identified.</p> <p>This installation is not considered '<i>relevant</i>' for assessment under the Agency's procedures which cover the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (Habitats Regulations). This was determined by referring to the Agency's guidance 'AQTAG014: Guidance on identifying '<i>relevance</i>' for assessment under the Habitats Regulations for installations with combustion processes.' There are no other emissions from the installation, thus no detailed assessment of the effect of the releases from the installation on SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites is required."</p> <p>We have not consulted Natural England on the application. The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance.</p>
<p>Environmental risk assessment</p>	
<p>Environmental risk</p>	<p>We have reviewed the operator's assessment of the environmental risk from the facility.</p> <p>The operator's risk assessment is satisfactory.</p> <p>The assessment shows that, applying the conservative criteria in our guidance on environmental risk assessment all emissions may be categorised as environmentally insignificant.</p>
<p>Operating techniques</p>	
<p>General operating techniques</p>	<p>We have reviewed the techniques used by the operator and compared these with the relevant guidance notes and we consider them to represent appropriate techniques for the facility.</p>
<p>Operating techniques for emissions that screen out as insignificant</p>	<p>Emissions of potential pollutants have been screened out as insignificant, and so we agree that the applicant's proposed techniques are BAT for the installation.</p> <p>We consider that the emission limits included in the installation permit reflect the BAT for the sector.</p>

Aspect considered	Decision
Permit conditions	
Use of conditions other than those from the template	Based on the information in the application, we consider that we do not need to impose conditions other than those in our permit template.
Improvement programme	Based on the information on the application, we consider that we need to impose an improvement programme. This is discussed in more detail in the <u>key issues</u> section of this document.
Emission limits	We have decided that emission limits are not required in the permit.
Monitoring	We have decided that monitoring should be carried out for the parameters listed in the permit, using the methods detailed and to the frequencies specified.
Reporting	We have specified reporting in the permit. These monitoring requirements are imposed to record annual production, energy and water usage. We made these decisions in accordance with our guidance.
Operator competence	
Management system	There is no known reason to consider that the operator will not have the management system to enable it to comply with the permit conditions. The decision was taken in accordance with the guidance on operator competence and how to develop a management system for environmental permits.
Relevant convictions	The Case Management System has been checked to ensure that all relevant convictions have been declared. No relevant convictions were found. The operator satisfies the criteria in our guidance on operator competence.
Financial competence	There is no known reason to consider that the operator will not be financially able to comply with the permit conditions.
Growth Duty	
Section 108 Deregulation Act 2015 – Growth duty	We have considered our duty to have regard to the desirability of promoting economic growth set out in section 108(1) of the Deregulation Act 2015 and the guidance issued under section 110 of that Act in deciding whether to grant this permit. Paragraph 1.3 of the guidance says: “The primary role of regulators, in delivering regulation, is to achieve the regulatory outcomes for which they are responsible. For a number of regulators, these regulatory outcomes include an explicit reference to development or growth. The growth duty establishes economic growth as a factor that all specified regulators should have regard to, alongside the delivery of the protections set out in the relevant legislation.”

Aspect considered	Decision
	<p>We have addressed the legislative requirements and environmental standards to be set for this operation in the body of the decision document above. The guidance is clear at paragraph 1.5 that the growth duty does not legitimise non-compliance and its purpose is not to achieve or pursue economic growth at the expense of necessary protections.</p> <p>We consider the requirements and standards we have set in this permit are reasonable and necessary to avoid a risk of an unacceptable level of pollution. This also promotes growth amongst legitimate operators because the standards applied to the operator are consistent across businesses in this sector and have been set to achieve the required legislative standards.</p>

Consultation

The following summarises the responses to consultation with other organisations, our notice on GOV.UK for the public and the way in which we have considered these in the determination process.

Responses from organisations listed in the consultation section

Response received from
Public Health England on 20/02/2019
Brief summary of issues raised
No specific issues to review
Summary of actions taken or show how this has been covered
No action required

No other responses were received.