

Notice of variation with introductory note

The Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations 2016

Iconichem Widnes Limited
Widnes Metal Salts
Moss Bank Road
Widnes
Cheshire
WA8 0RU

Variation application number

EPR/FP3032RH/V003

Permit number

EPR/FP3032RH

Widnes Metal Salts

Permit number EPR/FP3032RH

Introductory note

This introductory note does not form a part of the notice

The following notice gives notice of the variation of an environmental permit.

This variation covers:

- The expansion of the existing purification of cobalt nitrate solution via a solvent extraction process; and
- The replacement and relocation of the steam boiler.

The existing solvent extraction plant does not have any emission points and there are no new emission points associated with the expansion of this process.

An existing steam boiler is being replaced with a more efficient model, which will have lower oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) emissions. The new boiler will be installed at a different location within the site boundary. The current boiler emission point reference (A33) will be retained and used for the new boiler. The new boiler is classified as a “new medium combustion plant” (MCP), therefore it is also subject to Schedule 25A of the Environmental Permitting Regulations (Amendment) 2018.

The schedules specify the changes made to the original permit.

We consider that in reaching our decision to vary the permit we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements. We are satisfied that the permit will ensure that a high level of protection is provided for the environment and human health and that the activities will not give rise to any significant pollution of the environment or harm to human health.

The status log of a permit sets out the permitting history, including any changes to the permit reference number.

Status log of the permit		
Description	Date	Comments
Application EPR/BS5487IM/A001	21/09/2005	
Permit issued EPR/BS5487IM	30/06/2006	Original permit issued to Shepherd Widnes Limited.
Application EPR/BS5487IM/V002	06/11/2006	
Variation EPR/BS5487IM determined (Billing ref: VP3338ME)	10/11/2006	Correction of errors in permit.
Application EPR/BS5487IM/V003	08/11/2007	
Variation EPR/BS5487IM determined (Billing ref: SP3930XR)	20/12/2007	Cobaltic precipitation process.
Application EPR/FP3032RH/T001 (full transfer of permit EPR/BS5487IM)	12/07/2016	Application to transfer the permit in full to Blue 12345 Limited.
Transfer determined EPR/FP3032RH	23/08/2016	Full transfer of permit complete.

Status log of the permit		
Description	Date	Comments
Notified of change of company name	06/12/2016	Name changed to Iconichem Widnes Limited.
Variation issued EPR/FP3032RH/V002	20/12/2016	Varied permit issued to Iconichem Widnes Limited.
Application EPR/FP3032RH/V003	Duly made 12/10/2021	Variation to expand the existing purification of cobalt nitrate solution via a solvent extraction process and the replacement and relocation of the steam boiler.
Variation determined EPR/FP3032RH/V003 (Billing ref: ZP3104MM)	13/04/2022	Notice of variation issued

End of introductory note

Notice of variation

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016

The Environment Agency in exercise of its powers under regulation 20 of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 varies

Permit number

EPR/FP3032RH

Issued to

Iconichem Widnes Limited (“the operator”)

whose registered office is

**Moss Bank Road
Widnes
Cheshire
WA8 0RU**

company registration number 09839967

to operate a regulated facility at

**Widnes Metal Salts
Moss Bank Road
Widnes
Cheshire
WA8 0RU**

to the extent set out in the schedules.

The notice shall take effect from 13/04/2022

Name	Date
C G Morris	13/04/2022

Authorised on behalf of the Environment Agency

Schedule 1 – conditions to be deleted

None

Schedule 2 – conditions to be amended

The following conditions are amended as a result of the application made by the operator.

Table 1.1.1 as referenced in condition 1.1.1 is amended to include the replacement boiler. The table now reads as follows:

Table 1.1.1 Permitted activities		
Activity listed in Schedule 1 of the EP Regulations	Description of specified activity	Limits of specified activity
Section 4.2, A(1) (a) (iv): Producing inorganic chemicals such as salts (for example ammonium chloride, potassium chlorate, potassium carbonate, sodium carbonate, perborate, silver nitrate, cupric acetate, ammonium phosphomolybdate)	Production of cobalt, nickel, manganese, chromium, zinc, aluminium and sodium salts for use in a variety of chemical and industrial applications	Receipt of raw materials to dispatch of finished products.
Directly Associated Activity		
Unlisted Directly Associated Activity	Abatement of gaseous emissions	From extraction points at production vessels to final discharge point to atmosphere.
Unlisted Directly Associated Activity	Treatment of process effluents (primary treatment: metals precipitation and pH adjustment)	From the effluent reception tank to the discharge point to sewer
Unlisted Directly Associated Activity	Steam generation via one natural gas-fired boiler of 2.322 MW thermal input (new MCP)	From the seam-raising boiler to supply of steam to the product processing areas
Unlisted Directly Associated Activity	Waste management	Bulk storage of process wastes for off-site treatment/disposal

Table 2.1.1 as referenced in condition 2.1.1 is amended to include updated operating techniques. The table now reads as follows:

Table 2.1.1: Operating techniques		
Description	Parts	Date received
Application	The response to questions 2.1 and 2.2 of the Application, given in Sections 2.1 (Installation Details) and 2.2 (Emissions control) of the Application, including the Plan of release Points to Air (Appendix 3 to Application) and the Plan of site Drainage (Appendix 5 of the Application).	21/09/2005

Table 2.1.1: Operating techniques		
Description	Parts	Date received
Application for Variation EPR/BS5487IM/V003	The whole application and the additional information of 17 and 19 December	07/11/2007 17/12/2007 19/12/2007
Application EPR/FP3032RH/V003	Parts C2, and C3 of the application and all referenced supporting documentation.	11/10/2021

Table 2.2.1 as referenced in condition 2.2.1.2 is amended to include the replacement boiler. The table now reads as follows:

Table 2.2.1 Emission points to air		
Emission point reference or description	Source	Location of emission point
A1	NOx Scrubbing System	Release Point 1 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A2	Main Scrubber	Release Point 2 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A3	HCl Scrubber	Release Point 3 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A4	Vent from Sodium Nitrate Evaporators	Release Point 4 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A6	Ammonia Scrubber	Release Point 6 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A7	Vent from Hydrochloric Acid Storage Tank	Release Point 7 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A8	Vent from Nitric Acid Storage Tank	Release Point 8 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A9	Crystals Plant Scrubber	Release Point 9 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A10	No1. Dryer Main Baghouse	Release Point 10 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A11	Vent from VM-1 to 3 Transfer System	Release Point 11 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A12	Calciner Main Baghouse	Release Point 12 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A13	Vent from VM-4 Transfer System	Release Point 13 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)

Table 2.2.1 Emission points to air		
Emission point reference or description	Source	Location of emission point
A15	Vent from Vm-1 to 3 LEV System	Release Point 15 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A17	Vent from No 1. Fluid Bed Dryer LEV System	Release Point 17 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A18	No 1. Fluid Bed Dryer	Release Point 18 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A19	Vent from Mezzanine Extraction System	Release Point 19 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A20	Stirred Calciner	Release Point 20 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A21	No 2. Dryer Main Baghouse	Release Point 21 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A22	No 3. Dryer main Baghouse	Release Point 22 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A23	Vent from VM-6/Storage Hopper Transfer System	Release Point 23 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A25	Vent from VM-5 Transfer System	Release Point 25 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A26	Vent from VM-7 & 8 Transfer System	Release Point 26 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A27	Dissolving Plant Scrubber	Release Point 27 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A28	No. 2 Fluid Bed Dryer	Release Point 28 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A29	Ammonia Removal Plant	Release Point 29 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A30	No.4 Dryer Main Baghouse	Release Point 30 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A31	Vent from VM-9 Transfer System	Release Point 31 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A32	Vent from No.2 Fluid Bed Dryer LEV System	Release Point 32 on Appendix 3 of the Application (Plan of Release Points to Air)
A33	Boiler Stack	Release Point 'new boiler stack' on S-03-004 Rev67 (ICoNiChem Site Plan)

Table 2.2.2 as referenced in condition 2.2.1.3 is amended to include the replacement boiler. The table now reads as follows:

Table 2.2.2: Emission limits to air and monitoring				
Emission point reference	Parameter	Limit (including reference period)¹	Monitoring frequency	Monitoring method
A1	Oxides of nitrogen (as NO ₂)	90 mg/m ³ hourly average	Continuous	Non-dispersive infrared spectrometry (ISO 10849)
A27	Oxides of nitrogen (as NO ₂)	90 mg/m ³	Monthly	Colour stain detection tube
A2, A3, A7, A9	Chlorides (HCl)	10 mg/m ³ hourly average	Monthly	Colour stain detection tube
A6, A29	Ammonia (NH ₃)	10 mg/m ³ hourly average	Monthly	Colour stain detection tube
A10 to A19, A21 to A26, A28, A31, A32	Particulates	20 mg/m ³ hourly average	Annually	Isokinetic sampling and gravimetry (BS3405-1983)
A33	Oxides of Nitrogen (NO and NO ₂ expressed as NO ₂)	100 mg/m ³	Annually	MCERTS BS EN 14792
	Carbon monoxide	No limit set	Annually	MCERTS BS EN 15058

Note 1: see Section 6 for reference conditions.

Table S2 as referenced in conditions 4.1.2.1 and 4.1.2.2 is amended to include the replacement boiler. The table now reads as follows:

Table S2: Reporting of monitoring data			
Parameter	Emission point	Reporting period	Period begins
Ammonia mg/m ³	A6, A29	Quarterly	1 January, 1 April, 1 July, 1 October
Chlorides (as HCl), mg/m ³	A2, A3, A7, A9	Quarterly	1 January, 1 April, 1 July, 1 October
Oxides of Nitrogen (as NO ₂), mg/m ³	A1, A27	Quarterly	1 January, 1 April, 1 July, 1 October
Oxides of Nitrogen (as NO ₂), mg/m ³	A33	Annually	1 January
Carbon monoxide, mg/m ³	A33	Annually	1 January
Particulates, mg/m ³	A10-A19, A21-A26, A28, A31, A32	Annually	1 January
Total Flow (m ³ daily average)	S1	Annually	1 January

Table S2: Reporting of monitoring data			
Parameter	Emission point	Reporting period	Period begins
Suspended solids (mg/l)	S1	Annually	1 January
Cadmium (ug/l)	S1	Quarterly	1 January, 1 April, 1 July, 1 October
Total Cobalt used tonne	Installation	Annually	1 January
Water usage, m ³	Installation	Annually	1 January
Energy usage, MWh	Installation	Annually	1 January
Waste disposal and/or recovery, t	Installation	Annually	1 January
Performance indicators	Installation	Annually	1 January

Table S3 as referenced in conditions 4.1.2.2 and 4.1.3 has been updated to incorporate a new reporting form for emissions to air. The table now reads as follows:

Table S3: Reporting Forms		
Point source emissions to air	Emissions to Air Reporting Form, or other form as agreed in writing by the Environment Agency	Version 1, 08/03/2021
Sewer	S1	07/11/2006
Energy	E1	30/06/2006
Waste Return	R1	30/06/2006
Water usage	WU1	30/06/2006
Performance indicators	PI1	30/06/2006

Schedule 3 – conditions to be added

None