

Review of an Environmental Permit for an Installation subject to Chapter II of the Industrial Emissions Directive under the Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations 2016 (as amended)

Decision document recording our decision-making process following review of a permit

The Permit number is: EPR/EP3406SQ
The Operator is: Biowise Limited
The Installation is: Esholt Composting Facility
This Variation Notice number is: EPR/EP3406SQ/V003

What this document is about

Article 21(3) of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) requires the Environment Agency to review conditions in permits that it has issued and to ensure that the permit delivers compliance with relevant standards, within four years of the publication by the European Commission of updated decisions on BAT Conclusions.

We have reviewed the permit for this installation against the revised BAT Conclusions for the Waste Treatment industry sector published on 10 August 2018 in the Official Journal of the European Union. In this decision document, we set out the reasoning for the consolidated variation notice that we have issued.

It explains how we have reviewed and considered the techniques used by the Operator in the operation and control of the plant and activities of the installation. This review has been undertaken with reference to the decision made by the European Commission establishing Best Available Techniques (BAT) Conclusions (BATc) for Waste Treatment as detailed in document reference C (2018) 5070. It is our record of our decision-making process and shows how we have taken into account all relevant factors in reaching our position. It also provides a justification for the inclusion of any specific conditions in the permit that are in addition to those included in our generic permit template.

As well as considering the review of the operating techniques used by the Operator for the operation of the plant and activities of the installation, the consolidated variation notice takes into account and brings together in a single document all previous variations that relate to the original permit issue. Where this has not already been done, it also modernises the entire permit to reflect the conditions contained in our current generic permit template.

The introduction of new template conditions makes the Permit consistent with our current general approach and with other permits issued to Installations in this sector. Although the wording of some conditions has changed, while others have been deleted because of the new regulatory approach, it does not reduce the level of environmental

protection achieved by the Permit in any way. In this document, we therefore address only our determination of substantive issues relating to the new BAT Conclusions.

We try to explain our decision as accurately, comprehensively and plainly as possible. Achieving all three objectives is not always easy, and we would welcome any feedback as to how we might improve our decision documents in future.

How this document is structured

1. Our decision
2. How we reached our decision
3. The legal framework
4. Annex 1 – Review of operating techniques within the Installation against BAT Conclusions.
5. Annex 2 – Review and assessment of changes that are not part of the BAT Conclusions derived permit review
6. Annex 3 – Improvement Conditions

1 Our decision

We have decided to issue the Variation Notice to the Operator. This will allow the Operator to continue to operate the Installation, subject to the conditions in the Consolidated Variation Notice that updates the whole permit.

We consider that, in reaching our decision, we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements and that the varied permit will ensure that a high level of protection is provided for the environment and human health.

The Consolidated Variation Notice contains many conditions taken from our standard Environmental Permit template including the relevant annexes. We developed these conditions in consultation with industry, having regard to the legal requirements of the Environmental Permitting Regulations and other relevant legislation. This document does not therefore include an explanation for these standard conditions. Where they are included in the Notice, we have considered the techniques identified by the operator for the operation of their installation, and have accepted that the details are sufficient and satisfactory to make those standard conditions appropriate. This document does, however, provide an explanation of our use of “tailor-made” or installation-specific conditions, or where our Permit template provides two or more options.

2 How we reached our decision

2.1 Requesting information to demonstrate compliance with BAT Conclusion techniques

We issued a Notice under Regulation 61(1) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (a Regulation 61 Notice) on 17 October 2023 requiring the Operator to provide information to demonstrate where the operation of their installation currently meets, or how it will subsequently meet, the revised standards described in the relevant BAT Conclusions document.

The Notice required that where the revised standards are not currently met, the operator should provide information that:

- describes the techniques that will be implemented which will then ensure that operations meet the revised standards, or
- justifies why standards will not be met, and confirmation of the date when the operation of those processes will cease within the Installation or an explanation of why the revised BAT standards are not applicable to those processes, or
- justifies why an alternative technique will achieve the same level of environmental protection equivalent to the revised BAT standards described in the BAT Conclusions.

Where the Operator proposed that they were not intending to meet a BAT standard that also included a BAT Associated Emission Level (BAT-AEL) described in the BAT Conclusions Document, the Regulation 61 Notice required that the Operator make a formal request for derogation from compliance with that BAT-AEL (as provisioned by Article 15(4) of IED). In this circumstance, the Notice identified that any such request for derogation must be supported and justified by sufficient technical and commercial information that would enable us to determine acceptability of the derogation request.

The Regulation 61 Notice response from the Operator was received on 17 April 2024.

We considered it was in the correct form and contained sufficient information for us to begin our determination of the permit review but not that it necessarily contained all the information we would need to complete that determination.

The Operator made no claim for commercial confidentiality. We have not received any information in relation to the Regulation 61 Notice response that appears to be confidential in relation to any party.

2.2 Review of our own information in respect to the capability of the Installation to meet revised standards included in the BAT Conclusions document

Based on our records and previous experience in the regulation of the installation, we consider that the Operator will be able to comply with the techniques and standards described in the BAT Conclusions other than for those techniques and requirements described in BAT Conclusion 10, 12, 21 and 23. In relation to these BAT Conclusions, we do not fully agree with the Operator in respect of their current stated capability as recorded in their response to the Regulation 61 Notice.

In August 2018, the revised Waste Treatment BAT Conclusions was published. These Conclusions identify techniques that can be considered BAT and specify BAT associated emission limits (BAT-AELs) for waste treatment installations. The BAT Conclusions were required to be implemented within 4 years through permit review and variations, and through securing compliance with those variations, at existing waste treatment installations. The deadline for compliance was 17th August 2022.

We wrote to all biological waste treatment operators in June 2019 notifying them about the Waste Treatment BAT Conclusions and permit review process. We wrote again in July and August 2021, to remind operators of the BAT compliance date and that they should ensure that their sites complied with BAT by 17th August 2022. We consider we provided operators with sufficient time to undertake the necessary improvements on site to comply with BAT or vary their permits to reduce waste treatment tonnages and operate as waste facilities.

During the permit review process, we provided the operator with an opportunity to respond to the Regulation 61 Notice with supporting evidence and confirm that they will be able to comply with the improvements we require to ensure BAT and BAT-AELs would be met. In addition, the operator had the opportunity to comment on the draft permit as part of the permit review process. The operator has not objected to the BAT requirements as stated in the permit or stated that these cannot be met. We consider that they can and will be met. Consequently, we expect compliance with the new requirements including the BAT-AELs. We will take enforcement action where existing permitted activities are not compliant with BAT, in accordance with our enforcement and sanctions policy.

3 The legal framework

The Consolidated Variation Notice will be issued under Regulations 18 and 20 of the EPR. The Environmental Permitting regime is a legal vehicle which delivers most of the relevant legal requirements for activities falling within its scope. In particular, the regulated facility is:

- an *installation* as described by the IED;
- subject to aspects of other relevant legislation which also have to be addressed.

We consider that, in issuing the Consolidated Variation Notice, it will ensure that the operation of the Installation complies with all relevant legal requirements and that a high level of protection will be delivered for the environment and human health.

We explain how we have addressed specific statutory requirements more fully in the rest of this document.

Annex 1: decision checklist regarding relevant BAT Conclusions

BAT Conclusions for the Waste Treatment BREF were published by the European Commission on 10 August 2017. There are 53 BAT Conclusions. This annex provides a record of decisions made in relation to each relevant BAT Conclusion applicable to the installation. This annex should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Variation Notice.

The overall status of compliance with the BAT conclusion is indicated in the table as:

NA – Not Applicable

CC – Currently Compliant

NC – Not Compliant

BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / NC	Assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
1	<p>In order to improve the overall environmental performance, BAT is to implement and adhere to an environmental management system (EMS) that incorporates all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. commitment of the management, including senior management; II. definition, by the management, of an environmental policy that includes the continuous improvement of the environmental performance of the installation; III. planning and establishing the necessary procedures, objectives and targets, in conjunction with financial planning and investment. IV. implementation of procedures paying particular attention to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) structure and responsibility, (b) recruitment, training, awareness and competence, (c) communication, (d) employee involvement, (e) documentation, (f) effective process control, (g) maintenance programmes, (h) emergency preparedness and response, (i) safeguarding compliance with environmental legislation; 	CC	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u></p> <p>The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 1. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 1.</p>

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	<p>V. checking performance and taking corrective action, paying particular attention to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) monitoring and measurement (see also the JRC Reference Report on Monitoring of emissions to air and water from IED installations – ROM), (b) corrective and preventive action, recruitment, training, awareness and competence, (c) maintenance of records, (d) independent (where practicable) internal or external auditing in order to determine whether or not the EMS conforms to planned arrangements and has been properly implemented and maintained <p>VI. review, by senior management, of the EMS and its continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness;</p> <p>VII. following the development of cleaner technologies;</p> <p>VIII. consideration for the environmental impacts from the eventual decommissioning of the plant at the stage of designing a new plant, and throughout its operating life;</p> <p>IX. application of sectoral benchmarking on a regular basis;</p> <p>X. waste stream management (see BAT 2);</p> <p>XI. an inventory of waste water and waste gas streams (see BAT 3);</p> <p>XII. residues management plan (see description in Section 6.5);</p>		

BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / NC	Assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
	XIII. accident management plan (see description in Section 6.5); XIV. odour management plan (see BAT 12) XV. noise and vibration management plan (see BAT 17).		
2	In order to improve the overall environmental performance of the plant, BAT is to use all of the techniques listed below: (a) Set up and implement waste characterisation and pre-acceptance procedures; (b) Set up and implement waste acceptance procedures; (c) Set up and implement a waste tracking system and inventory; (d) Set up and implement an output quality management system; (e) Ensure waste segregation; (f) Ensure waste compatibility prior to mixing or blending of waste; (g) Sort incoming solid waste	CC	<u>Environment Agency assessment</u> The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 2. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 2.
3	In order to facilitate the reduction of emissions to water and air, BAT is to establish and to maintain an inventory of waste water and waste gas streams, as part of the environmental management system (see BAT 1), that incorporates all of the following features:	CC	<u>Environment Agency assessment</u> The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 3. We have assessed the information provided and we are

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	<p>(i) information about the characteristics of the waste to be treated and the waste treatment processes, including: (a) simplified process flow sheets that show the origin of the emissions; (b) descriptions of process-integrated techniques and waste water/waste gas treatment at source including their performances;</p> <p>(ii) information about the characteristics of the waste water streams, such as: (a) average values and variability of flow, pH, temperature, and conductivity; (b) average concentration and load values of relevant substances and their variability (e.g. COD/TOC, nitrogen species, phosphorus, metals, priority substances /micropollutants); (c) data on bioeliminability (e.g. BOD, BOD to COD ratio, Zahn-Wellens test, biological inhibition potential (e.g. inhibition of activated sludge)) (see BAT 52);</p> <p>(iii) information about the characteristics of the waste gas streams, such as: (a) average values and variability of flow and temperature; (b) average concentration and load values of relevant substances and their variability (e.g. organic compounds, POPs such as PCBs); (c) flammability, lower and higher explosive limits, reactivity; (d) presence of other substances that may affect the waste gas treatment system or plant safety (e.g. oxygen, nitrogen, water vapour, dust).</p>		<p>satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 3.</p>

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4	<p>In order to reduce the environmental risk associated with the storage of waste, BAT is to use all of the techniques given below:</p> <p>(a) Optimised storage location; (b) Adequate storage capacity; (c) Safe storage operation; (d) Separate area for storage and handling of packaged hazardous waste.</p>	CC	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u></p> <p>The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 4. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 4.</p>
5	<p>In order to reduce the environmental risk associated with the handling and transfer of waste, BAT is to set up and implement handling and transfer procedures.</p> <p>Handling and transfer procedures aim to ensure that wastes are safely handled and transferred to the respective storage or treatment. They include the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • handling and transfer of waste are carried out by competent staff; • handling and transfer of waste are duly documented, validated prior to execution and verified after execution; • measures are taken to prevent, detect and mitigate spills; 	CC	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u></p> <p>The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 5. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 5.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> operation and design precautions are taken when mixing or blending wastes (e.g. vacuuming dusty/powdery wastes). <p>Handling and transfer procedures are risk-based considering the likelihood of accidents and incidents and their environmental impact.</p>		
6	For relevant emissions to water as identified by the inventory of waste water streams (see BAT 3), BAT is to monitor key process parameters (e.g. waste water flow, pH, temperature, conductivity, BOD) at key locations (e.g. at the inlet and/or outlet of the pre-treatment, at the inlet to the final treatment, at the point where the emission leaves the installation).	NA	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u></p> <p>We are satisfied that BATc 6 is not applicable to this Installation.</p>
7	BAT is to monitor emissions to water with at least the frequency given in BATc 7, and in accordance with EN standards. If EN standards are not available, BAT is to use ISO, national or other international standards that ensure the provision of data of an equivalent scientific quality.	NA	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u></p> <p>We are satisfied that BATc 7 is not applicable to this Installation.</p>
8	BAT is to monitor channelled emissions to air with at least the frequency given in BATc 8, and in accordance with EN standards. If EN standards are not available, BAT is to use ISO, national or other international standards that ensure the provision of data of an equivalent scientific quality.	CC	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u></p> <p>The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 8. We have</p>

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			assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 8.
10	<p>BAT is to periodically monitor odour emissions.</p> <p>Odour emissions can be monitored using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EN standards (e.g. dynamic olfactometry according to EN 13725 in order to determine the odour concentration or EN 16841-1 or -2 in order to determine the odour exposure); • when applying alternative methods for which no EN standards are available (e.g. estimation of odour impact), ISO, national or other international standards that ensure the provision of data of an equivalent scientific quality. <p>The monitoring frequency is determined in the odour management plan (see BAT 12).</p>	NC	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u></p> <p>The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 10. We have assessed the information provided and reviewed the site compliance report. We are not satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 10. We have set out our approach to enforcement in Chapter 2 of this document. We shall undertake BAT compliance at this installation in accordance with our enforcement and sanctions policy.</p>
11	<p>BAT is to monitor the annual consumption of water, energy and raw materials as well as the annual generation of residues and waste water, with a frequency of at least once per year.</p>	CC	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u></p> <p>The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 11. We have assessed the information provided and we are</p>

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	Monitoring includes direct measurements, calculation or recording, e.g. using suitable meters or invoices. The monitoring is broken down at the most appropriate level (e.g. at process or plant/installation level) and considers any significant changes in the plant/installation.		satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 11.
12	<p>In order to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce odour emissions, BAT is to set up, implement and regularly review an odour management plan, as part of the environmental management system (see BAT 1), that includes all of the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a protocol containing actions and timelines; • a protocol for conducting odour monitoring as set out in BAT 10; • a protocol for response to identified odour incidents, e.g. complaints; • an odour prevention and reduction programme designed to identify the source(s); to characterise the contributions of the sources; and to implement prevention and/or reduction measures. 	NC	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u></p> <p>The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 12. We have assessed the information provided and reviewed the site compliance report. We are not satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 12. We have set out our approach to enforcement in Chapter 2 of this document. We shall undertake BAT compliance at this installation in accordance with our enforcement and sanctions policy.</p>
13	<p>In order to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce odour emissions, BAT is to use one or a combination of the techniques given below:</p> <p>(a) Minimising residence times;</p>	CC	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u></p> <p>The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 13. We have assessed the information provided and we are</p>

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	(b) Using chemical treatment; (c) Optimising aerobic treatment		satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 13.
14	<p>In order to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce diffuse emissions to air, in particular of dust, organic compounds and odour, BAT is to use an appropriate combination of the techniques given below:</p> <p>(a) Minimising the number of potential diffuse emission sources; (b) Selection and use of high-integrity equipment; (c) Corrosion prevention; (d) Containment, collection and treatment of diffuse emissions; (e) Dampening; (f) Maintenance; (g) Cleaning of waste treatment and storage areas; (h) Leak detection and repair (LDAR) programme</p>	CC	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u></p> <p>The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 14. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 14.</p>
15	<p>BAT is to use flaring only for safety reasons or for non-routine operating conditions (e.g. start-ups, shutdowns) by using both of the techniques given below:</p> <p>(a) Correct plant design;</p>	NA	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u></p> <p>We are satisfied that BATc 15 is not applicable to this Installation.</p>

BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / NC	Assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
	(b) Plant management		
16	<p>In order to reduce emissions to air from flares when flaring is unavoidable, BAT is to use both of the techniques given below:</p> <p>(a) Correct design of flaring devices; (b) Monitoring and recording as part of flare management</p>	NA	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u> We are satisfied that BATc 16 is not applicable to this Installation.</p>
17	<p>In order to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce noise and vibration emissions, BAT is to set up, implement and regularly review a noise and vibration management plan, as part of the environmental management system (see BAT 1), that includes all of the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. a protocol containing appropriate actions and timelines; II. a protocol for conducting noise and vibration monitoring; III. a protocol for response to identified noise and vibration events, e.g. complaints; IV. a noise and vibration reduction programme designed to identify the source(s), to measure /estimate noise and vibration exposure, to 	CC	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u> The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 17. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 17.</p>

BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / NC	Assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
	characterise the contributions of the sources and to implement prevention and /or reduction measures.		
18	<p>In order to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce noise and vibration emissions, BAT is to use one or a combination of the techniques given below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Appropriate location of equipment and buildings; (b) Operational measures; (c) Low noise-equipment; (d) Noise and vibration equipment; (e) Noise attenuation 	CC	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u></p> <p>The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 18. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 18.</p>
19	<p>In order to optimise water consumption, to reduce the volume of waste water generated and to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions to soil and water, BAT is to use an appropriate combination of the techniques given below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Water management; (b) Water recirculation; (c) Impermeable surface; (d) Techniques to reduce the likelihood and impact of overflows and failures from tanks and vessels; 	CC	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u></p> <p>The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 19. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 19.</p>

BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / NC	Assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
	(e) Roofing of waste storage and treatment areas; (f) Segregation of water streams (g) Adequate drainage infrastructure; (h) Design and maintenance provisions to allow detection and repair of leaks (i) Appropriate buffer storage capacity		
20	In order to reduce emissions to water, BAT is to treat waste water using an appropriate combination of the techniques given below: <i>Preliminary and primary treatment, e.g.</i> (a) Equalisation (b) Neutralisation (c) Physical separation, e.g. screens, sieves, grit separators, grease separators, oil-water separation or primary settlement tanks <i>Physico-chemical treatment, e.g.</i> (d) Adsorption (e) Distillation /rectification (f) Precipitation (g) Chemical oxidation (h) Chemical reduction	CC	<u>Environment Agency assessment</u> The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 20. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 20.

BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / NC	Assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
	<p>(i) Evaporation (j) Ion exchange (k) Stripping</p> <p>Biological treatment, e.g. (l) Activated sludge process (m) Membrane bioreactor (n) Nitrification / denitrification when the treatment includes a biological treatment</p> <p>Solids removal, e.g. (o) Coagulation and flocculation (p) Sedimentation (q) Filtration (e.g. sand filtration, microfiltration, ultrafiltration) (r) Flotation</p> <p>See also: Table 6.1: BAT-associated emission levels (BAT-AELs) for direct discharges to a receiving water body</p> <p>See also: Table 6.2: BAT-associated emission levels (BAT-AELs) for indirect discharges to a receiving water body</p>		

BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / NC	Assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
21	<p>In order to prevent or limit the environmental consequences of accidents and incidents, BAT is to use all of the techniques given below, as part of the accident management plan (see BAT 1):</p> <p>(a) Protection measures; (b) Management of incidental /accidental emissions; (c) Incident /accident registration and assessment system</p>	NC	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u></p> <p>The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 21. We have assessed the information provided and reviewed the site compliance report. We are not satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 21. We have set out our approach to enforcement in Chapter 2 of this document. We shall undertake BAT compliance at this installation in accordance with our enforcement and sanctions policy.</p>
22	<p>In order to use materials efficiently, BAT is to substitute materials with waste.</p> <p>Waste is used instead of other materials for the treatment of wastes (e.g. waste alkalis or waste acids are used for pH adjustment, fly ashes are used as binders).</p>	CC	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u></p> <p>The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 22. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 22.</p>

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23	<p>In order to use energy efficiently, BAT is to use both of the techniques given below:</p> <p>(a) Energy efficiency plan; (b) Energy balance record</p>	NC	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u></p> <p>The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 23. We have assessed the information provided and reviewed the site compliance report. We are not satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 23. We have set out our approach to enforcement in Chapter 2 of this document. We shall undertake BAT compliance at this installation in accordance with our enforcement and sanctions policy.</p>
24	<p>In order to reduce the quantity of waste sent for disposal, BAT is to maximise the reuse of packaging, as part of the residues management plan (see BAT 1).</p> <p>Packaging (drums, containers, IBCs, pallets, etc.) is reused for containing waste, when it is in good condition and sufficiently clean, depending on a compatibility check between the substances contained (in consecutive uses). If necessary, packaging is sent for appropriate treatment prior to reuse (e.g. reconditioning, cleaning).</p>	CC	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u></p> <p>The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 24. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 24.</p>

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33	<p>In order to reduce odour emissions and to improve the overall environmental performance, BAT is to select the waste input.</p> <p>The technique consists of carrying out the pre-acceptance, acceptance and sorting of the waste input (see BAT 2) so as to ensure the suitability of the waste input for the waste treatment, e.g. in terms of nutrient balance, moisture or toxic compounds which may reduce the biological activity.</p>	CC	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u></p> <p>The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 33. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 33.</p>
34	<p>In order to reduce channelled emissions to air of dust, organic compounds and odorous compounds, including H₂S and NH₃, BAT is to use one or a combination of the techniques given below:</p> <p>(a) Adsorption; (b) Biofilter; (c) Fabric filter; (d) Thermal oxidation; (e) Wet scrubbing</p> <p>See also: Table 6.7: BAT-associated emission levels (BAT-AELs) for channelled NH₃, odour, dust and TVOC emissions to air from the biological treatment of waste.</p>	NA	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u></p> <p>We are satisfied that BATc 34 is not applicable to this Installation.</p>

BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / NC	Assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
35	<p>In order to reduce the generation of waste water and to reduce water usage, BAT is to use all of the techniques given below:</p> <p>(a) Segregation of water streams; (b) Water recirculation; (c) Minimisation of the generation of leachate</p>	CC	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u></p> <p>The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 35. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 35.</p>
36	<p>In order to reduce emissions to air and to improve the overall environmental performance, BAT is to monitor and/or control the key waste and process parameters.</p> <p>Monitoring and/or control of key waste and process parameters, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • waste input characteristics (e.g. C to N ratio, particle size); • temperature and moisture content at different points in the windrow; • aeration of the windrow (e.g. via the windrow turning frequency, O₂ and/or CO₂ concentration in the windrow, temperature of air streams in the case of forced aeration); • windrow porosity, height and width. 	CC	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u></p> <p>The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 36. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 36.</p>

BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / NC	Assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
37	<p>In order to reduce diffuse emissions to air of dust, odour and bioaerosols from open-air treatment steps, BAT is to use one or both of the techniques given below:</p> <p>(a) Use of semi permeable membrane covers; (b) Adaptation of operations to the meteorological conditions</p>	CC	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u></p> <p>The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 37. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 37.</p>
38	<p>In order to reduce emissions to air and to improve the overall environmental performance, BAT is to monitor and/or control the key waste and process parameters.</p> <p>This includes monitoring and/or control of key waste and process parameters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pH and alkalinity of the digester feed; • digester operating temperature; • hydraulic and organic loading rates of the digester feed; • concentration of volatile fatty acids (VFA) and ammonia within the digester and digestate; • biogas quantity, composition (e.g. H₂S) and pressure; • liquid and foam levels in the digester. 	NA	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u></p> <p>We are satisfied that BATc 38 is not applicable to this Installation.</p>

BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / NC	Assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
39	<p>In order to reduce emissions to air, BAT is to use both of the techniques given below:</p> <p>(a) Segregation of the waste gas streams; (b) Recirculation of waste gas</p>	NA	<p><u>Environment Agency assessment</u> We are satisfied that BATc 39 is not applicable to this Installation.</p>

Annex 2: Review and assessment of changes that are not part of the BAT Conclusions derived permit review

Existing Medium Combustion Plant

We asked the Operator to provide information on all combustion plant on site in the Regulation 61 Notice as follows:

- Number of combustion plant (CHP engines, back-up generators, boilers);
- Size of combustion plant – rated thermal input (MWth)
- Date each combustion plant came into operation
- Confirmation as to whether or not the combustion plant is subject to a capacity market agreement (2014 or 2015 auction) or whether or not a Feed-in Tariff preliminary accreditation application was received prior to 1 December 2016

The Operator reported that there are no combustion plants on site.

Bioaerosols monitoring requirements

We asked the Operator to confirm the following aspects regarding the site operations in the Regulation 61 Notice:

- Whether or not the operational processes of biodegradable waste are in open processes within 250 metres of human receptors.
- Whether or not there is a channelled or point source release within 250 metres that are open sources e.g. biofilters within 250 metres of human receptors; and
- The existing permit contains bioaerosols monitoring requirements, the microbiological markers, associated bioaerosols limits and the monitoring standards

The Operator provided information regarding bioaerosols monitoring in their response to the Regulation 61 Notice. We carried out an assessment of the site location and the distance of site processes from sensitive receptors as part of this determination.

There are external site operational processes within 250 metres of a sensitive receptor. We consider it appropriate to insert the bioaerosols monitoring requirements in the permit in accordance with our guidance TGN M9 Environmental monitoring of bioaerosols at regulated facilities (version 2, July 2018). The Operator is required to comply with the new monitoring requirements from the date of permit issue.

Soil & groundwater risk assessment (baseline report)

The IED requires that the operator of any IED installation using, producing or releasing “relevant hazardous substances” (RHS) shall, having regarded the possibility that they might cause pollution of soil and groundwater, submit a “baseline report” with its permit application. The baseline report is an important reference document in the assessment of contamination that might arise during the operational lifetime of the regulated facility

and at cessation of activities. It must enable a quantified comparison to be made between the baseline and the state of the site at surrender.

At the definitive cessation of activities, the Operator has to satisfy us that the necessary measures have been taken so that the site ceases to pose a risk to soil or groundwater, taking into account both the baseline conditions and the site's current or approved future use. To do this, the Operator has to submit a surrender application to us, which we will not grant unless and until we are satisfied that these requirements have been met.

The Operator did not submit a risk assessment and baseline soil and groundwater data in their response to the Regulation 61 notice. We have included Improvement conditions 1 and 2 in the permit which requires the Operator to submit an updated site risk assessment and baseline soil and groundwater data. See Improvement conditions in Annex 3 of this decision document.

Waste types

We have specified the permitted waste types, descriptions and quantities, which can be accepted at the regulated facility. The wastes are specified in Table S2.2 in the permit.

We are satisfied that the Operator can accept these wastes for the following reasons:

- they are suitable for the proposed activities
- the proposed infrastructure is appropriate
- the environmental risk assessment is acceptable.

We have amended the description of EWC 19 05 03 to enable the Operator accept off-specification compost from 20 01 08 and a 20 03 01 which has completed a sanitisation and stabilisation phase.

Other wastes (non-standard waste codes)

The following wastes in the current permit are not specified in the our revised biowaste treatment permit templates. We have retained these wastes in the current permit provided the Operator undertakes a detailed characterisation of the wastes prior to acceptance for treatment at the site in accordance with BATc 2a.

Waste code	Description
01 01 02	wastes from mineral non-metalliferous excavation
01 03 06	tailings other than those mentioned in 01 03 04 and 01 03 05
01 04 08	waste gravel and crushed rocks other than those mentioned in 01 04 07
01 04 09	waste sand and clays
01 04 12	tailings and other wastes from washing and cleaning of minerals other than those mentioned in 01 04 07 and 01 04 11

01 04 13	wastes from stone cutting and sawing other than those mentioned in 01 04 07
02 03 01	sludges from washing, cleaning, peeling, centrifuging and separation
03 03 07	mechanically separated rejects from pulping of waste paper and cardboard
03 03 08	wastes from sorting of paper and cardboard destined for recycling
04 02 21	wastes from unprocessed textile fibres
04 02 22	wastes from processed textile fibres
10 09 08	casting cores and moulds which have undergone pouring other than those mentioned in 10 09 07
12 01 05	plastics shavings and turnings
17 05 04	soil and stones other than those mentioned in 17 05 03
17 08 02	gypsum-based construction materials other than those mentioned in 17 08 01
19 08 01	screenings
19 08 02	waste from desanding
19 08 05	sludges from treatment of urban waste water
19 08 12	sludges from biological treatment of industrial waste water other than those mentioned in 19 08 11
19 08 14	sludges from other treatment of industrial waste water other than those mentioned in 19 08 13
19 09 01	solid waste from primary filtration and screenings
19 09 02	sludges from water clarification
19 09 04	spent activated carbon
19 12 07	wood other than that mentioned in 19 12 06
19 12 08	textiles
19 12 09	minerals (for example sand, stones)
19 13 02	solid wastes from soil remediation other than those mentioned in 19 13 01
19 13 04	sludges from soil remediation other than those mentioned in 19 13 03
19 13 06	sludges from groundwater remediation other than those mentioned in 19 13 05
20 01 11	textiles

20 01 38	wood other than that mentioned in 20 01 37
20 02 02	soil and stones
20 02 03	other non-biodegradable wastes
20 03 01	municipal household waste – separately collected garden waste only
20 03 02	waste from markets – biodegradable source segregated fractions only

We made this decision with respect to waste types in accordance with the Framework Guidance Note – *Framework for assessing suitability of wastes going to anaerobic digestion, composting and biological treatment* (July 2013).

Secondary containment infrastructure design

We asked the Operator via the Regulation 61 Notice to:

- describe any secondary containment and whether it currently meets the relevant standard in the “Containment systems for the prevention of pollution (C736)” report, where there are above-ground storage or primary containment on site; or
- explain why the current site infrastructure design and construction is fit for purpose, where it is concluded that secondary containment is not required or does not need to meet the standards in the C736 report, to enable a baseline standard so as to establish a quantified comparison; and
- describe how the construction of the lagoons meets the relevant standard in CIRIA C736 report, where there are storage lagoons used for the storage of digestate on site.

Risk assessment for secondary containment

We assessed site containment as part of the permit review. Our assessment is in two stages:

Stage 1 – A review of the site containment risk assessment; and

Stage 2 – A review of existing site containment – a demonstration that the existing site containment (including storage lagoons) is fit for purpose i.e. meets the CIRIA C736 standards

The operator submitted a secondary containment report which consisted of an assessment of the site secondary containment in comparison to the CIRIA C736 standard. The report included a site specific risk assessment methodology for the existing secondary containment in accordance with Chapter 2 of CIRIA C736.

In accordance with the CIRIA C736, the general framework for the risk assessment of containment adopts a three-step approach as follows:

Step 1 applies the source–pathway–receptor model to the site to assess the hazard presented by the inventory to the surrounding environment. The assessment of the source–pathway–receptor is combined to provide a **site hazard rating**. However, in

many cases the nature and quantity of the inventory and knowledge of nearby sensitive receptors such as water bodies or designated habitats may be sufficient to determine that there is negligible (low site hazard rating) or, conversely, a high (high site hazard rating) risk.

Step 2 considers the likelihood of a loss of containment. This will depend on several factors such as the reliability of the operations and inspections undertaken on site, the conditions of the primary storage vessels and the degree they are protected from impact damage etc. Security will also be a consideration. The likelihood of a loss of containment is combined with the site hazard rating to provide a **site risk rating**.

Step 3 the site risk rating leads to a recommendation for an appropriate class of containment.

We assessed the operator's risk assessment in accordance with the CIRIA C736 Containment systems for the prevention of pollution. We are satisfied that the risk assessment of the existing secondary containment and lagoon storage infrastructure is adequate with respect to the following aspects:

- The site hazard rating is accurate based on the details of the source-pathway-receptor assessment
- The site hazard risk rating is accurate based on the assessment of the likelihood of occurrence of each event that may lead to loss of containment

Consequently, we agree that the overall site risk rating is Medium.

Assessment of existing secondary containment & lagoon storage design and construction

The Operator's report included a review of the design, method of construction and integrity of the site secondary containment and storage which was carried out by a structural or civil engineer. The review compared the existing site secondary containment against CIRIA C736. The report included a review of the:

- physical condition of the secondary containment
- the suitability for providing containment when subjected to the dynamic and static loads caused by catastrophic tank failure;
- a preventative maintenance and inspection regime;
- future work required to ensure compliance with the standards set out in CIRIA C736 or other relevant industry standard; and
- Recommendations

We reviewed the Operator's report and its findings. We assessed the Operator's assessment having regard to CIRIA C736 Containment systems for the prevention of pollution. We are not satisfied that the existing site containment meets the standards set out in CIRIA C736.

We have set an improvement condition in the permit to address the deficiency in the existing site secondary containment (IC3). See Improvement condition in Annex 3 of this decision document.

Operational contingency storage capacity

We asked the Operator via the Regulation 61 Notice to confirm whether or not the operational storage capacity provides a minimum of two months storage. The Operator did not provide any information in response to operational storage capacity on site.

We have therefore set Improvement Condition 4 in the permit to address this aspect of the permit review. See Improvement condition in Annex 3 of this decision document.

Other improvement conditions

The permit was transferred to Biowise Limited on 18 March 2022. The Operator submitted a site fire prevention plan during the transfer application. An odour management plan was not submitted with the application.

We therefore consider it prudent to include Improvement conditions 5 and 6 which requires the submission of a revised fire prevention plan and a site odour management plan to the Environment Agency for approval. Once approved, these documents shall form part of the site operating techniques.

Annex 3: Improvement Conditions

Based on the information in the Operator's Regulation 61 Notice response and our own records of the capability and performance of the installation at this site, we consider that we need to set improvement conditions so that the outcome of the techniques detailed in the BAT Conclusions are achieved by the installation. These improvement conditions are set out below - justifications for them is provided at the relevant section of the decision document (Annex 1 or Annex 2).

If the consolidated permit contains existing improvement conditions that are not yet complete or the opportunity has been taken to delete completed improvement conditions then the numbering in the table below will not be consecutive as these are only the improvement conditions arising from this permit variation.

Improvement programme requirements		
Reference	Requirement	Date
Improvement condition for site risk assessment to prevent soil & groundwater pollution		
IC1	The operator shall submit to the Environment Agency for approval a risk assessment considering the possibility of soil and groundwater contamination at the installation where the activity involves the use, production or release of a relevant hazardous substance (as defined in Article 3(18) of the Industrial Emissions Directive). The risk assessment shall clearly establish with appropriate evidence whether or not there is a risk of contamination of soil and groundwater and should follow the Defra Guidance – Industrial Emissions Directive EPR Guidance on Part A Installations (Section 5.10-5.15, pages 28-29 - Baseline Reports and Permit Surrender).	20/09/2025 or other date as agreed in writing with the Environment Agency
IC2	Where the risk assessment carried out under IC1 above establishes a risk to soil and groundwater, the operator shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) prepare and submit a baseline report compliant with Article 22 of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) containing information necessary to determine the current state of soil and groundwater contamination; or b) provide a summary report referring to information previously submitted where the operator is satisfied that such information represents the current state of soil and groundwater contamination, 	20/10/2025 or other date as agreed in writing with the Environment Agency

Improvement programme requirements		
Reference	Requirement	Date
	so as to enable a quantified comparison to be made with the state of soil and groundwater contamination upon definitive cessation of activity.	
Improvement condition for site surfacing and secondary containment design		
IC3	<p>The operator shall submit a report to the Environment Agency for approval detailing the plan to implement the recommendations within the Containment Assessment Report 1299/J05 (dated 17 April 2024).</p> <p>The plan shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • timescales for the assessment of all areas on site that were not accessible on 11th January 2024; • implementation of individual improvement measures necessary for the site surfacing and secondary containment systems to comply with CIRIA C736 (2014) guidance, or equivalent; • a preventative maintenance and inspection regime with frequency for both the site surfacing and secondary containment <p>The plan shall be implemented in accordance with the Environment Agency's written approval.</p>	20/09/2025 or other date as agreed in writing with the Environment Agency
Improvement condition for operational contingency storage capacity		
IC4	<p>The operator shall provide a written "operational contingency storage plan" and shall obtain the Environment Agency's written approval to it. The plan shall contain the results of a review of the current storage of compost produced from site operations. The review shall examine site contingency arrangements in the event of closed landspreading periods, extreme weather conditions, site closure, disease outbreak etc.</p> <p>The contingency storage plan shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional storage capacity on-site (at least 2 months storage) and storage capacity off-site; • Identification of alternative outlets for compost – identify companies /permitted waste facilities that would be able to manage the compost output, taking into account their permits and capacity constraints. 	20/09/2025 or other date as agreed in writing with the Environment Agency

Improvement programme requirements		
Reference	Requirement	Date
	The plan shall be implemented in accordance with the Environment Agency's written approval.	
Improvement condition for site fire prevention plan (FPP)		
IC5	<p>The operator shall submit a fire prevention plan to the Environment Agency and obtain the Environment Agency's written approval to it. The plan shall take into account the Environment Agency's technical guidance, Fire prevention plans: environmental permits (Updated 11 January 2021).</p> <p>The appropriate measures for fire prevention shall, as a minimum, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the management of storage of feedstock, product and/or waste piles • the measures to prevent, detect and contain fires; and • the management of fire-waters <p>The operator shall implement the procedures and measures as approved by the Environment Agency.</p>	20/09/2025 or other date as agreed in writing with the Environment Agency
Improvement condition for site odour management plan (OMP)		
IC6	<p>The operator shall submit a site odour management plan to the Environment Agency and obtain the Environment Agency's written approval to it. The plan shall take into account the appropriate measures for odour control specified in our guidance, Biological waste treatment: appropriate measures for permitted facilities (published 21 September 2022).</p> <p>The plan shall also include all the required information as specified in the Environment Agency Horizontal Guidance H4 - Odour Management.</p> <p>The operator shall implement the procedures and measures as approved by the Environment Agency.</p>	20/09/2025 or other date as agreed in writing with the Environment Agency