

Permitting Decisions- Environment Agency Initiated Variation

We have issued an Environment Agency initiated variation for Leading Solvent Supplies operated by Leading Solvent Supplies Limited following a review of the permit in accordance with Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016, regulation 34(1).

The variation number is EPR/GB3904TM/V003.

The permit variation was issued on 08/07/2026.

We consider in reaching this 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.

Permit Review

This Environment Agency has a duty, under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (EPR), regulation 34(1), to periodically review permits.

Article 21(3) of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) also requires the Environment Agency to review conditions in permits to ensure that they deliver compliance with relevant standards, within four years of the publication of updated decisions on Best Available Techniques (BAT) Conclusions.

We have reviewed the permit for this regulated facility and varied the permit to make a number of changes to reflect relevant standards and best practice. These changes principally relate to the implementation of our technical guidance:

- [Chemical waste appropriate measures for permitted facilities](#) and the relevant requirements of the [BAT Conclusions for Waste Treatment](#) which have been incorporated into our guidance.
- [Waste electrical and electronic equipment \(WEEE\): appropriate measures for permitted facilities](#) and the relevant requirements of the [BAT Conclusions for Waste Treatment](#) which have been incorporated into our guidance.
- [Waste temperature exchange equipment \(WTEE\): appropriate measures for permitted facilities](#) and the relevant requirements of the [BAT](#)

[Conclusions for Waste Treatment](#) which have been incorporated into our guidance.

- [Non-hazardous and inert waste: appropriate measures for permitted facilities](#) and the relevant requirements of the [BAT Conclusions for Waste Treatment](#) which have been incorporated into our guidance.

In this decision document, we set out the reasoning for the 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 (operating techniques) against our technical guidance.

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.

Purpose of this document

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

- explains how the Environment Agency initiated variation has been determined;
- summarises the decision making process in the [decision considerations](#) section to show how the main relevant factors have been taken into account;
- highlights [key issues](#) in the determination.

Read the permitting decisions in conjunction with the environmental permit and the variation notice.

Key issues of the decision

Environment Agency led variation – permit review

We have carried out an Environment Agency initiated variation to the permit following a permit review as required by legislation to ensure that permit conditions deliver compliance with relevant legislative requirements and appropriate standards to protect the environment and human health.

The Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) came into force on 7 January 2014 with the requirement to implement all relevant Best Available Techniques (BAT) Conclusions as described in the Commission Implementing Decision. Article 21(3) of the 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 of updated decisions on Best Available Techniques (BAT) Conclusions.

The BAT Conclusions for Waste Treatment (the BREF) was published on 17 August 2018 following a European Union wide review of BAT, implementing decision (EU) 2018/1147 of 10 August 2018. Relevant existing facilities were expected to be in compliance with the BAT Conclusions within 4 years (i.e. by August 2022).

On 18 November 2020, Chemical Waste: appropriate measures for permitted facilities guidance was published on gov.uk. This technical guidance explains the standards that are relevant to regulated facilities with an environmental permit to treat or transfer chemical waste, providing relevant standards (appropriate measures) for those sites and incorporating the relevant requirements of the BAT Conclusions.

The following Appropriate Measures guidance is also applicable to the permitted activities being varied under this permit review and has been included in the operating techniques table.

- Non-hazardous and inert waste: appropriate measures for permitted facilities - published 12 July 2021.
- Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE): appropriate measures for permitted facilities - published 13 July 2022.
- Waste temperature exchange equipment (WTEE): appropriate measures for permitted facilities - published 13 July 2022.

We issued a notice under regulation 61(1) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (a Regulation 61 Notice) on 17/12/2024 requiring the operator to provide information to confirm that the operation of their facility currently meets, or how it will subsequently meet, the standards (appropriate measures) described in our technical guidance.

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 to ensure operations meet the relevant standards and by when, or
- Explains why they are not applicable to the facility in question, or
- Justifies why an alternative technique is appropriate and will achieve an equivalent level of environmental protection to the standards described in our guidance

- Confirms if they intend to cease operating any activity which would be in breach of the relevant new BAT Conclusion (BATC) after the compliance date, and the date by which they intend to cease operation;
- Confirms where there is a BAT-Associated Emission Level (BAT-AEL) specified in the BAT conclusion, with which they will not comply with by the compliance date and they wish to continue operating, they should request a derogation.

The standards described in our technical guidance are split into 7 chapters:

- General management appropriate measures
- Waste pre-acceptance, acceptance and tracking appropriate measures
- Waste storage, segregation and handling appropriate measures
- Waste treatment appropriate measures
- Emissions control appropriate measures
- Emissions monitoring and limits appropriate measures
- Process efficiency appropriate measures

We have set emission limit values (ELVs) and monitoring requirements for relevant substances in line with our technical guidance and the BAT Conclusions for Waste Treatment, unless a tighter, i.e. more stringent, limit was previously imposed and these limits have been carried forward.

The Regulation 61 notice required the operator to confirm whether they could comply with the standards described in each of these chapters. Table 1 below provides a summary of the response received and our assessment of it. The overall status of compliance with the standards (appropriate measures) is indicated in the table as:

NA – Not Applicable

CC – Currently Compliant

FC – Compliant in the future (through improvement conditions set in permit)

NC – Not Compliant

The Regulation 61 notice also asked the operator to confirm whether they operate a medium combustion plant or specified generator (as per Schedule 25A or 25B of EPR 2016) and whether they had considered how their operations could be affected by climate changes (e.g. through a climate change adaptation plan).

Our assessment of the responses received from the operator regarding soil and groundwater risk assessment, medium combustion plant and specified generators, and consideration of climate change are also summarised in Table 1.

Regulation 61 Response

The Regulation 61 notice response from the Operator was received on 23/09/2025.

We considered that the response did not contain sufficient information for us to commence determination of the permit review. We therefore issued a further information request to the operator. Suitable further information was provided by the operator on 07/04/2026 and 29/05/2026.

Summary of our assessment of the operator's Reg 61 response and our actions - Temporary cessation.

The activity AR6, which is subject to the Chemical Waste Appropriate Measures is non-operational. We consider this to be a "temporary cessation". Activity AR6 in the permit cannot take place since we have not been given the information to show that it will meet the required technical standards. We have therefore added pre-operational condition PO1 into the permit regarding the recommencement of activity AR6 listed in Table S1.1. The condition requires that, prior to recommencement of this activity, the operator must notify the EA of the intention to recommence and provide supporting documents in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Treatment BAT conclusions and Chemical Wastes: appropriate measures for permitted facilities (and other appropriate measures guidance as applicable).

Table 1 – Summary of our assessment of the operator’s Reg 61 response

Appropriate measures	Compliance status	Assessment of the installation’s compliance with relevant standards (appropriate measures) and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator
General management appropriate measures	CC	The operator confirmed that they currently meet the requirements of all appropriate measures in this section. Compliance with the appropriate measures in this section of the guidance has been incorporated into the varied permit through the updated operating techniques listed in Table S1.2.
Waste pre-acceptance, acceptance and tracking appropriate measures	CC	The operator confirmed that they currently meet the requirements of all appropriate measures in this section. Compliance with the appropriate measures in this section of the guidance has been incorporated into the varied permit through the updated operating techniques listed in Table S1.2.
Waste storage, segregation and handling appropriate measures	FC	During determination of the permit, we identified that the operation was not compliant with appropriate measure 4.86 which states repackaging must be carried out in a dedicated, suitably equipped area to manage process-specific risks (e.g. LEV/abatement where required). We have set improvement condition IC1 to address this. Once the location of any emission points associated with the repackaging area has been confirmed, the operator shall submit an updated site plan under IC2 to clearly identify these points. Given the high level of staff turnover at the site, an Improvement Condition is required to provide assurance that compliance standards are effectively embedded and maintained. IC3 requires the operator to commission a competent person to assess the site's primary, secondary and tertiary containment systems against the standards in Sections 4 and 6.5 of <i>Chemical Waste: Appropriate Measures for Permitted Facilities</i> (November 2020), including relevant CIRIA, HSE and EEMUA guidance. Compliance with the other appropriate measures in this section of the guidance has been incorporated into the varied permit through the updated operating techniques listed in Table S1.2.
Waste treatment appropriate measures	CC	The operator confirmed that they currently meet the requirements of all appropriate measures in this section. Compliance with the appropriate measures in this section of the guidance has been incorporated into the varied permit through the updated operating techniques listed in Table S1.2.

Emissions control appropriate measures	CC	The operator confirmed that they currently meet the requirements of all appropriate measures in this section. Compliance with the appropriate measures in this section of the guidance has been incorporated into the varied permit through the updated operating techniques listed in Table S1.2.
Emissions monitoring and limits appropriate measures	CC	The operator confirmed that they currently meet the requirements of all appropriate measures in this section. Compliance with the appropriate measures in this section of the guidance has been incorporated into the varied permit through the updated operating techniques listed in Table S1.2.
Process efficiency appropriate measures	CC	The operator confirmed that they currently meet the requirements of all appropriate measures in this section. Compliance with the appropriate measures in this section of the guidance has been incorporated into the varied permit through the updated operating techniques listed in Table S1.2.
Reg 61 requirementAssessment of response received		
Soil and groundwater risk assessment	The operator has not included a site condition report in their submission. This was not required as part of the application as it was out of the scope of the permit review. The operator is required to submit 5 and 10 yearly monitoring of groundwater and soil contamination as per the conditions in the permit.	
Medium combustion plant and specified generators	No existing medium combustion plant or specified generators are present at this facility.	
Climate change	Submission of climate change risk assessment is no longer an application requirement. It now forms a part of the operator's EMS and will be reviewed within compliance assessment.	
Summary of other changes made to the permit as a result of our assessment of the Reg 61 response		
Change	Reason for change	
Changes to the Activity Table, S1.1 within Schedule 1 of the Permit	Table S1.1 (referenced by conditions 1.2.1, 1.3.1, 2.1.1, 2.3.7, 3.1.4 and 4.2.1) was updated in line with the current permit template to maintain compliance with the relevant Appropriate Measures. The activity numbering was also revised to reflect the addition of a new non-hazardous waste repackaging activity. - AR3 (Bulking) has been amended to repackaging of hazardous waste. R2, R3 and R5 have been removed, and R12 has been added. - AR4 has been added for the repackaging of non-hazardous waste, with a limit of no more than 50 tonnes per day.	

	AR5 has been renumbered as AR6 for non-hazardous waste treatment, with a treatment limit of no more than 10 tonnes per day. This activity is currently non-operational and has been mothballed.
Changes to the Improvement condition Table, S1.3 within Schedule 1 of the Permit	Table S1.3 (referenced by condition 2.4.1) was updated to remove completed IP1 and include IC1, IC2 and IC3.
Changes to the Wastes and EWC Code Tables in Schedule 2 of the permit	See EWC code section.
Changes to Schedule 3, monitoring and emissions limits in the permit	Table S3.1 (referenced by conditions 3.1.1, 3.5.1 and 3.5.4) has been added to include monitoring of emissions from emission point A1 in the repackaging area.
Changes to Schedule 4, Reporting	Schedule 4 has been updated to reflect the changes made to Schedule 3 and the way the conditions have been presented has altered slightly. - Table S4.1 Reporting of monitoring data has been amended to include emission point A1 and Process monitoring - Table S4.2 Annual production/treatment has been amended to include hazardous and non-hazardous treated (Recovery and Disposal) - Table S4.3 Performance parameters has been amended to include relevant parameters. - Table S4.4 Reporting forms has been updated to include relevant reporting forms.
Updates and amendments to the definitions in Schedule 6 of the permit	Schedule 6 has been updated to incorporate new definitions present in relation to the requirements of the Activities, Monitoring and Reporting of the permit. Some definitions have been removed in accordance with the change in Guidance to the Appropriate Measures and updates to the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016.
Changes to Schedule 7, Site plan	A new Site Layout Plan has been added to the permit.

Decision Considerations

Confidential information

A claim for commercial or industrial confidentiality has not been made.

The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on confidentiality.

Identifying confidential information

We have not identified information provided as part of the Regulation 61 notice response that we consider to be confidential.

The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on confidentiality.

The regulated facility

We considered the extent and nature of the facility at the site in accordance with RGN 2 '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'.

The site

The operator has provided plans which we consider to be satisfactory.

These show the extent of the site of the facility including the discharge points.

The plans show the location of the part of the installation to which this permit applies on that site.

The plan is included in the permit.

Operating techniques

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.

The operating techniques that the applicant must use are specified in S1.2 in the environmental permit.

Updating permit conditions during consolidation

We have updated permit conditions to those in the current generic permit template as part of permit consolidation. The conditions will provide the same level of protection as those in the previous permits.

Changes to the permit conditions

We have varied the permit as stated in the variation notice.

Management plans

We did not review any management plan under the scope of the permit review. Under the conditions of the permit, where we consider that activities are giving rise to pollution in the form of fugitive emissions, we will ask for the submission and implementation of a suitable management plan.

Plans previously approved:

- Fire prevention plan

Improvement programme

We have included an improvement programme to ensure that the permit meets the requirements of the Environment Agency's guidance, Chemical Waste: Appropriate Measures for permitted facilities.

Those Improvement Conditions added are referenced in Table 1 of this Decision Document. They have been included in the permit to address issues of non-compliance with the Chemical Waste Appropriate Measures.

Changes to EWC codes

We have excluded the following wastes for the following reasons. The operator stated that the use of 98/99 EWC codes would be inappropriate and non-compliant and confirmed that wastes are classified using the most specific available EWC code:

Table S2.2 Permitted waste types and quantities for hazardous waste storage

- 06 03 99 wastes not otherwise specified
- 11 01 98* other wastes containing hazardous substances

The following non-hazardous mirror-entry EWC code has been removed from Table S2.2 Permitted waste types and quantities for hazardous waste storage, this is already listed appropriately under Table S2.3 for non-hazardous storage.

- 06 03 14 solid salts and solutions other than those mentioned in 06 03 11 and 06 03 13

Emission limits

No emission limits have been added, amended or deleted as a result of this variation.

Reporting

We have amended reporting in the permit for the following parameters:

- Emissions to air, every 6 months.
- Process monitoring, annually.

We made these decisions in accordance with Waste Treatment BAT Conclusions, Chemical Waste: Appropriate Measures for Permitted Facilities

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 100 of that Act in deciding whether to grant the variation of 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.”

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.

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.