

Permitting Decisions- Bespoke Permit

We have decided to grant the permit for Enva WEEE Recycling Facility operated by Enva E-Waste England Limited

The permit number is EPR/KP3723MB/A001

The permit was granted on 21/10/2026.

The main features of the permit are as follows.

The installation is located at the former Dartford International Ferry Terminal, Clipper Boulevard, Dartford, Kent, DA2 6QB. The site comprises a purpose-built WEEE treatment facility with associated external storage areas. Sensitive receptors in the vicinity are considered through the management and mitigation measures specified elsewhere in this permit.

The facility accepts waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), including waste temperature exchange equipment (WTEE) such as refrigerators and freezers, together with small mixed WEEE (SMW), cookers and other household electrical equipment.

WTEE treatment comprises Stage 1 degassing and Stage 2 mechanical destruction, including shredding and separation of metal, plastic and foam fractions. Foam treatment incorporates recovery of blowing agents using Borsig membrane technology. During the shredding process, released propellants are managed within an enclosed system using nitrogen inert gas to prevent the formation of a hazardous atmosphere. The resulting gas stream is compressed, cooled and condensed to recover the majority of propellant and water, with liquid propellant separated and collected for reuse. Residual gas is treated through a membrane separation system and activated carbon pressure swing adsorption (PSA) unit, which recover remaining hydrocarbon vapours and recycle them back into the process, minimising emissions. Cooling is provided by a closed-loop air-cooled and chiller system. The recovered liquefied propellant is stored in sealed, purpose-built gas barrels for transport, while the treated exhaust gas is purified prior to discharge to atmosphere.

SMW treatment consists of manual dismantling and removal of other hazardous components where required, followed by shredding and separation of materials for recovery.

The facility has a throughput of 40,000 tonnes per year for the installation activities and 35,000 tonnes per year for the waste operation activities.

The following Schedule 1 Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 activities are undertaken:

- Section 5.3 A(1)(a)(ii) - disposal or recovery of hazardous waste involving physico-chemical treatment - Treatment of WTEE through Stage 1 degassing and Stage 2 mechanical destruction.
- Section 5.3 A(1)(a)(ii) - disposal or recovery of hazardous waste involving physico-chemical treatment - mechanical treatment of SMW.
- Section 5.3 A(1)(a)(ii) - disposal or recovery of hazardous waste involving physico-chemical treatment - granulation of hazardous electrical and communication cables
- Section 5.6 A(1)(a) - temporary storage of hazardous waste with a total capacity exceeding 50 tonnes pending treatment at the installation.

Directly Associated Activities include the receipt, handling, storage and transfer of wastes and recovered materials arising from the permitted activities.

The following activities are directly associated with the operation of the installation:

- Physical treatment for the purpose of recycling for small mixed WEEE.
- Storage of processed materials - storage of recovered material fractions and shredder residue arising from treatment activities, pending off-site recovery or disposal.
- Storage of raw materials - receipt and storage of raw materials required for site operations, including nitrogen, lubricating oil and diesel, prior to use within the installation.
- Abatement Systems - operation of bag filters, carbon filters, HEPA filters and wet scrubbers serving the treatment plant, from collection of process emissions through to discharge to atmosphere.

The installation also undertakes the treatment and storage of non-hazardous WEEE and associated wastes.

Treatment operations are limited to:

- Manual and mechanical treatment of non-hazardous WEEE (including sorting, shredding, granulation and separation of materials for recovery), treatment of compressors, including manual dismantling and separation of component materials and baling of cardboard packaging waste generated by site operations.

Waste storage activities comprise the storage of non-hazardous WEEE, processed materials and other non-hazardous wastes pending off-site recovery or disposal.

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 summarises the decision-making process to show how the main relevant factors have been taken into account.

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

- summarises the decision making process in the decision considerations section to show how the main 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.

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 application that we consider to be confidential.

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

Consultation

The consultation requirements were identified in accordance with the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations (2016) and our public participation statement.

The application was publicised on the GOV.UK website.

We consulted the following organisations:

- Local Authority – Environmental Protection Department
- Local Authority – Planning

- Fire & Rescue
- Director of PH/UKHSA
- Food Standards Agency

The comments and our responses are summarised in the [consultation responses](#) section.

Operator

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 regulated facility

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 RGN2 'Defining the scope of the installation', Appendix 1 of RGN 2 'Interpretation of Schedule 1'.

The extent of the facility are defined in the site plan and in the permit. The activities are defined in table S1.1 of the permit.

The site

The operator has provided a plan which we consider to be satisfactory.

These show the extent of the site of the facility.

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.

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 Emissions Directive.

Nature conservation, landscape, heritage and protected species and habitat designations

We have checked the location of the application to assess if it is within the screening distances we consider relevant for impacts on nature conservation, landscape, heritage and protected species and habitat designations. The application is within our screening distances for these designations.

Ecologically designated sites have also been identified. Within 1,000m of the facility. These include the following:

- One Marine conservation zone – Swanscombe
- One Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – West Thurrock Lagoon & Marshes SSSI

No Ramsar, Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), National Nature Reserves (NNR), Local Nature Reserves (LNR), Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), or National Parks is located within the relevant screening distances.

We have assessed the application and its potential to affect sites of nature conservation, landscape, heritage and protected species and habitat designations identified in the nature conservation screening report as part of the permitting process.

We consider that the application will not affect any site of nature conservation, landscape and heritage, and/or protected species or habitats identified.

We have not consulted Natural England.

The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance.

Environmental risk

We have reviewed the operator's assessment of the environmental risk from the facility.

The operator's risk assessment is satisfactory.

General operating techniques

We have reviewed the techniques used by the operator and compared these with the relevant Waste Treatment BAT Reference document and guidance notes and we consider them to represent appropriate techniques for the facility.

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

Fire Prevention Plan

We have assessed the fire prevention plan and are satisfied that it meets the measures and objectives set out in the Fire Prevention Plan guidance.

We have approved the fire prevention plan as we consider it to be appropriate measures based on information available to us at the current time. The applicant should not take our approval of this plan to mean that the measures in the plan are considered to cover every circumstance throughout the life of the permit.

The plan has been incorporated into the operating techniques S1.2 of the environmental permit.

Dust management

We have reviewed the dust and emission management plan in accordance with our guidance on emissions management plans for dust.

We consider that the dust and emission management plan is satisfactory and we approve this plan.

We have approved the dust and emission management plan as we consider it to be appropriate measures based on information available to us at the current time. The applicant should not take our approval of this plan to mean that the measures in the plan are considered to cover every circumstance throughout the life of the permit.

The applicant should keep the plans under constant review and revise them annually or if necessary sooner if there have been complaints arising from operations on site or if circumstances change. This is in accordance with our guidance 'Control and monitor emissions for your environmental permit.

The plan has been incorporated into the operating techniques S1.2 of the environmental permit.

Raw materials

We have specified limits and controls on the use of raw materials and fuels.

Waste types

We have specified the permitted waste types, descriptions and quantities, which can be accepted at the regulated facility.

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; and
- the environmental risk assessment is acceptable.

We made these decisions with respect to waste types in accordance with WM3 guidance on waste classification.

Improvement programme

Based on the information on the application, we consider that we need to include an improvement programme.

We have included this improvement programme to ensure that the operator demonstrates, through a site-specific monitoring exercise, that the refrigeration and insulation panel treatment processes do not result in fugitive releases of refrigerant or blowing agent gases and that the containment, extraction and abatement systems are operating effectively in accordance with WEEE appropriate measures and the Waste Treatment BAT Conclusions.

We have included an improvement programme requiring the operator to undertake a comprehensive monitoring exercise to demonstrate that the treatment of refrigeration units and insulation panels does not result in fugitive releases of refrigerant or blowing agent gases. The operator must provide advance notification to the Environment Agency before commencing the exercise.

Emission Limits

Emissions to Air

Emission Limit Values (ELVs) and equivalent parameters or technical measures based on Best Available Techniques (BAT) have been added for emissions to air and for the following substances:

- Dust
- CFCs

Total VOCs Emissions to air from the odour abatement plant and associated odour control units, including the emissions control system exhausts serving the WEEE shredder and the fridge/WTEE plant, as identified in Schedule 7 of the permit, are subject to the following emission limit values:

WEEE shredder emissions control system exhaust:

- Dust: **5 mg/m³**

Fridge/WTEE plant emissions control system exhaust:

- Dust: **5 mg/m³**

- CFCs: **10 mg/m³**
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) (concentration): **15 mg/m³**
- Total VOCs (mass emission): in accordance with the limits specified in Schedule 7.

Emissions to Water

There are no direct emissions of wastewater to a receiving water body.

Uncontaminated surface water runoff from roofs and non-operational areas is discharged via an oil interceptor prior to release. No process effluent or contaminated operational runoff is discharged directly to surface water.

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.

These monitoring requirements have been included to ensure that emissions to air from the channelled emission point are measured at the required frequency and assessed against the relevant emission limit values specified in the applicable BAT Conclusions. This will also enable the Operator to demonstrate ongoing compliance with permit conditions and provide assurance that emissions are being effectively controlled, including emissions of substances for which no emission limit values apply.

We made these decisions in accordance with the relevant technical guidance- Control and monitor emissions for your environmental permit ,Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE): appropriate measures for permitted facilities, and Waste Treatment BAT Conclusions (Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1147)

Based on the information in the application we are satisfied that the operator's techniques, personnel and equipment have either MCERTS certification or MCERTS accreditation as appropriate.

Reporting

We have specified reporting in the permit.

We made these decisions in accordance with relevant technical guidance.

Management System

We are not aware of any 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.

We only review a summary of the management system during determination. The applicant submitted their full management system. We have therefore only reviewed the summary points.

A full review of the management system is undertaken during compliance checks.

Technical Competence

Technical competence is required for activities permitted.

The operator is a member of the CIWM/WAMITAB scheme

We are satisfied that the operator is technically competent.

Previous performance

We have assessed operator competence. There is no known reason to consider the applicant will not comply with the permit conditions.

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

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.”

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.

Consultation Responses

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 UK Health Security Agency

Brief summary of issues raised: The main emissions of potential concern are emissions of particulate, dust and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) to the atmosphere, and emissions to water from potentially contaminated site water run-off.

The procedural control measures in place, such as carrying out operations within enclosed buildings, using abatement systems for point-source emissions, building the site on an impermeable surface, operating a sealed surface water drainage system, and providing bunding for oil and diesel tanks, suitably mitigate the impact from the assessed emissions to air and water on the identified offsite receptors.

We request the Environment Agency takes into account the following recommendation:

Recommendation:

We note an inconsistency between the receptors identified in the Dust and Emissions Management Plan (DEMP) and the Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA). The ERA includes residential receptors on St Mary's Road (220 m south), which are absent from the 2 DEMPs. We recommend that the EA may wish to advise the applicant that these receptors should also be included in the DEMPs for consistency, although this does not affect the conclusions of our public health risk assessment.

Based on the information contained in the application supplied to us, UKHSA has no significant concerns regarding the risk to the health of the local population from the installation.

This consultation response is based on the assumption that the permit holder shall take all appropriate measures to prevent or control pollution, in accordance with the relevant sector guidance and industry best practice.

Summary of actions taken: Operator provided updated version which is included in the permit.

Response received from Dartford Borough Council (Planning)

Brief summary of issues raised: No comments

Summary of actions taken: No action taken.