

Notice of variation with introductory note

The Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations 2016

Biffa Waste Services Limited

Wednesbury Waste Management Resource Centre

Potters Lane

Wednesbury

West Midlands

WS10 7NR

Variation application number

EPR/XP3631SE/V006

Permit number

EPR/XP3631SE

Wednesbury Waste Management Resource Centre

Permit number EPR/XP3631SE

Introductory note

This introductory note does not form a part of the permit

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

This variation notice has been issued to permit recovery of hazardous waste to allow physico-chemical treatment of nitrous oxide received in pressure containers/canisters where the operator is only authorised to carry out the activities specified in Schedule 1 table S1.1 (the “activities”) and is regulated under the Environmental Permitting Regulations as:

Section 5.3 Part A (1)(a)(ii) - Disposal or recovery of hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 10 tonnes per day involving physico-chemical treatment.

The schedules specify the changes made to the original permit.

We consider that in reaching our decision to vary the permit we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements and that the permit will ensure at least an equivalent level of protection to human health and the quality of the environment.

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

Status log of permit A: EPR/XP3631SE		
Description	Date	Comments
Application XP3631SE	Duly made 15/08/2005	Reference: EPR/XP3631SE/A001
Response to request for further information in relation to the waste types that will be treated or stored within each identified treatment process or storage area	Request dated 07/02/2006	Response dated 26/05/06
Request to extend determination	Request dated 08/05/2006	Request accepted 11/05/06
Further information received in relation to Schedule 3 of the draft permit for the justification for inclusion of specified waste types (six figure waste codes ending in “99”) in Tables S3.2 to S3.12 and some additional waste types in Tables S3.3, S3.11 and S3.12	Letter received 29/06/2006	
Permit determined	30/06/2006	Reference: EPR/XP3631SE
Variation application EPR/XP3631SE/V002	11/05/2011	Request to reduce annual tonnage, add waste types and reduce discharge rate to sewer.
Variation determined EPR/XP3631SE/V003	19/08/2011	

Status log of permit A: EPR/XP3631SE		
Description	Date	Comments
Agency initiated variation EPR/XP3631SE/V003	15/10/2011	Amend an error from previous variation
Variation determined EPR/XP3631SE	12/10/2011	Varied permit issued.
Agency variation determined EPR/XP3631SE/V004	10/12/2013	Agency variation to implement the changes introduced by IED
Application XP3631SE/V006	Duly made 23/05/2025	
Variation determined EPR/XP3631SE/V006	20/11/2025	Variation to add a nitrous oxide treatment plant with associated storage has been issued.

End of introductory note

Notice of variation

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016

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

Permit number

EPR/XP3631SE

Issued to

BIFFA WASTE SERVICES LIMITED (“the operator”),

whose registered office is

Coronation Road

Cressex

High Wycombe

Buckinghamshire

HP12 3TZ

company registration number 00946107

to operate an installation at

Wednesbury Waste Management Resource Centre

Potters Lane

Wednesbury

West Midlands

WS10 7NR

to the extent set out in the schedules.

The notice shall take effect from 20/11/2025.

Name	Date
Rebecca Warren	20/11/2025

Authorised on behalf of the Environment Agency

Schedule 1 – conditions to be deleted

None

Schedule 2 – conditions to be amended

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

1. Table S1.1 as described in condition 2.1.1 has been amended to add a new Schedule 1 Part A section 5.3 (a) (ii) activity for the treatment of nitrous oxide containers/canisters and to add reference to waste types table S3.13 to the 5.6 activity (Storage of hazardous waste prior to treatment onsite).

S1.1 Activities		
Activity listed in Schedule 1 of the EP Regulations	Description of specified activity and WFD Annex I and II operations	Limits of specified activity and waste types
S5.3 A(1) (a)(ii)	Disposal of hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 10 tonnes per day involving physico-chemical treatment (D9).	Acid/lime neutralisation of hazardous waste. Discharge of process effluent to sewer not to exceed 400 tonnes per day, to a maximum of 80,000 tonnes per annum. Use of tank T7 subject to the limits specified in improvement condition IP7 Waste types as specified in Table S3.2
S5.3 A(1) (a)(ii)	Disposal of hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 10 tonnes per day involving physico-chemical treatment (D9).	'Large' redox of hazardous waste. Discharge of process effluent to sewer not to exceed 400 tonnes per day, to a maximum of 5,000 tonnes per annum. Waste types as specified in Table 3.3.
S5.3 A(1) (a)(ii)	Disposal of hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 10 tonnes per day involving physico-chemical treatment (D9).	'Small' redox of hazardous waste. Discharge of process effluent to sewer not to exceed 400 tonnes per day, to a maximum of 10,000 tonnes per annum. Waste types as specified in Table S3.4.
S5.3 A(1) (a)(ii)	Disposal of hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 10 tonnes per day involving physico-chemical treatment (D9)	Batch redox/neutralisation of hazardous waste. Discharge of process effluent to sewer not to exceed 400 tonnes per day, to a maximum of 3,700 tonnes per annum. Waste types as specified in Table S3.5
S5.3 A(1) (a)(ii)	Disposal of hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 10 tonnes per day involving physico-chemical treatment (D9).	VOC stripping of hazardous waste. Discharge of process effluent to sewer not to exceed 400 tonnes per day, to a maximum of 20,000 tonnes per annum. Waste types as specified in Table S3.6.

S5.3 A(1) (a)(ii)	Disposal of hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 10 tonnes per day involving physico-chemical treatment (D9).	Ammonia stripping of hazardous waste. Discharge of process effluent to sewer not to exceed 400 tonnes per day, to a maximum of 20,000 tonnes per annum. Waste types as specified in Table S3.7
S5.3 A(1) (a)(ii)	Disposal of hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 10 tonnes per day involving physico-chemical treatment (D9).	Solidification/ encapsulation of hazardous waste. Throughput of waste not to exceed 5,000 tonnes per annum. Waste types as specified in Table S3.8.
S5.3 A(1) (a)(ii)	Disposal of hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 10 tonnes per day involving physico-chemical treatment (D9).	Carbon absorption of hazardous waste. Discharge of process effluent to sewer not to exceed 400 tonnes per day, to a maximum throughput of 5,000 tonnes per annum. Waste types as specified in Table S3.10.
S5.3 A(1) (a)(ii)	Disposal of hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 10 tonnes per day involving physico-chemical treatment (D9).	'Advanced' redox of hazardous waste. Discharge of process effluent to sewer not to exceed 400 tonnes per day, to a maximum throughput of 2,500 tonnes per annum. Waste types as specified in Table S3.11.
S5.3 A(1) (a)(ii)	Disposal of hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 10 tonnes per day involving physico-chemical treatment (D9).	Effluent treatment plant, including pH correction prior to filter press in jumbo tank and final effluent storage in tank T30 and v notch tank. Maximum throughput of 145,600 tonnes per annum. Any non-hazardous effluent resulting from successful waste treatment on-site (excluding separated oil fraction).

S5.3 A(1) (a)(iii)	Disposal of hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 10 tonnes per day involving blending or mixing (D13)	Blending, and mixing of hazardous waste. Throughput of waste not to exceed 15,000 tonnes per annum. Waste types as specified in Table S3.9
S5.3 A(1) (a)(iv)	Disposal or recovery hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 10 tonnes per day involving repackaging. (D14)	Throughput of waste not to exceed 15,000 tonnes per annum. Waste types as specified in Table S3.9
S5.6 A(1) (a)	Temporary storage of hazardous waste with a total capacity exceeding 50 tonnes. (D15) D15-Storage of hazardous waste. D15-Storage of fly ash D15-Oily waste storage D-15-Storage of hazardous waste in offloading Pit 1 (tank T21) and Pit 2 (tank T22)	Waste types specified in Table S3.9. Maximum storage not to exceed 45m3 at any one time. Throughput of waste not to exceed 18,700 tonnes per annum. Waste types as specified in Table S3.12. Combined storage of waste not to exceed 60m3 at any one time. Waste types as specified in Tables S3.2 to S3.13.
5.3 Part A (1)(a)(ii)	Disposal or recovery of hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 10 tonnes per day involving physico-chemical treatment. Treatment of hazardous waste containers. R4 Recycling/reclamation of metals and metal compounds.	Metal containers/canisters containing nitrous oxide shall only be treated through this treatment process. Small canisters containing nitrous oxide would be punctured in a sealed unit and then evacuated via a vacuum pump and passed to a destruction unit where a heated catalytic bed decomposes the nitrous oxide to nitrogen and oxygen which can be returned to atmosphere via a new emission point. Larger containers of nitrous oxide are not punctured and are instead connected directly by valves to a non-return valve on a rack system which extracts the gas via vacuum pump and passes it to the destruction unit as above. The empty containers from either route above are exported as metallic packaging for recovery. No waste types shall be submitted to this activity other than those wastes specified in Table S3.13.

Waste oil treatment		
S5.3 A(1) (a)(ii)	Disposal or recovery hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 10 tonnes per day involving repackaging (R13).	Oil and water gravity separation. Discharge of process effluent to sewer not to exceed 400 tonnes per day, to a maximum of 15,000 tonnes per annum. Waste types as specified in Table S3.12.
Directly Associated Activity		
Storage of acid	Storage of product acid	Maximum storage of 310m ³ at any one time
Storage of sodium hydroxide	Storage of product caustic	Maximum storage of 5m ³ at any one time
Storage of lime	Storage of product lime	Maximum storage of 45m ³ at any one time
Storage of hydrogen peroxide	Storage of product sodium hydrogen peroxide	Maximum storage of 53.5m ³ at any one time
Storage of sodium hypochlorite	Storage of product sodium, hypochlorite	Maximum storage of 10m ³ at any one time
Storage of filter cake	Storage of filter cake from presses for offsite disposal	Storage of filter cake in the designate filter cake storage area
Washing and size reduction of drums and containers	Shredding and size reduction by crushing of plastic and metal containers	The shredding and size reduction by crushing of empty or nominally empty metal and plastic drums and containers. Containers that originally contained hazardous materials shall be emptied and washed to remove any residue. Maximum quantity of 3,200 tonnes per annum.
Boiler	Boiler with a capacity of less than 1.2MW thermal input for providing heat to the ammonia stripping process	From receipt of fuel (diesel) to disposal of waste and release of combustion products in plant with a capacity of less than 1.2MW thermal input.

2. Amended Table S1.2 as described in condition 2.3.1 to add the operating techniques in connection to the new nitrous oxide treatment process.

Table S1.2 Operating techniques		
Description	Parts	Date Received
Application	The response to section 2.1 and 2.2 in the Application, excluding the inclusion of some six figure waste codes ending in '99' as permitted wastes (as referenced in response to question B2.1.1)	15/08/05
Variation application to treat nitrous oxide cannisters/containers	- Medclair DU2000 user manual (Revision A2 – 15/02/2023). - Medclair DU2000 technical brief (Revision A2 – 15/02/2023)	19/12/2024

3. Amended Table S4.1 as described in condition 3.1.1 to add an additional emission point A6 from the nitrous oxide treatment process. Detailed below is the additional row for the new emission point which is to be added to table S4.1:

Table S4.1 Point source emissions to air – emission limits and monitoring requirements						
Emission point ref. & location	Source	Parameter (Note 1)	Limit (incl. unit)	Reference Period (Note 2)	Monitoring frequency (Note 5)	Monitoring standard or method
A6 Emission point from Nitrous Oxide Destruction Unit as shown on plan titled drainage plan dated 03/08/20 rev 2	Heated catalytic bed of the destruction unit	Oxygen	--	--	--	--
		Nitrogen	--	--	--	--

4. Amended Table S4.5 as described in condition 3.6.1 to add an additional emission point A6 from the nitrous oxide treatment process. Detailed below is the additional row for the new process monitoring requirements for the new nitrous oxide treatment process, which is to be added to table S4.5:

Table S4.5 Process monitoring requirements				
Emission point reference or source or description of point of measurement	Parameter	Monitoring frequency	Monitoring standard or method	Other Specifications
Central Destruction unit (CDU)	Efficiency assessment	Continuous monitoring including temperature, pressure, flow rate and nitrous oxide concentrations before and after the catalyst.	The CDU shall be installed, maintained, operated and replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.	--

Variation application number
EPR/XP3631SE/V006

Schedule 3 – conditions to be added

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

1. Table S3.13 as referenced in conditions 2.3.4, has been added to put a limit and the waste activity.

Table S3.13 Permitted waste types and quantities for storage and treatment of hazardous waste through the nitrous oxide treatment process.	
Maximum quantity	The total quantity of hazardous wastes (nitrous oxide) treated at the site shall not exceed 410 tonnes per year.
Exclusions	None
Waste code	Description
16	WASTES NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED IN THE LIST
16 05	gases in pressure containers and discarded chemicals
16 05 04*	gases in pressure containers (including halons) containing dangerous substances (consisting of only containers/canisters with nitrous oxide present)