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Non-technical Summary of Activities – Frank Roberts & Sons Ltd.

Frank Roberts and Sons Ltd (FRS) is a bakery baking bread. FRS has operated on the current site, in Rudheath, Northwich, Cheshire since 1952 but has been baking in Northwich since 1887.

The Northwich factory consists of five oven plants housed in three buildings, processing vegetable and animal raw materials into baked food products. The main product groups are bread, rolls and morning goods and sweet biscuits and treats.

Following the building of Bread Plant 3, containing the fifth oven, the physical capacity of the plant has exceeded the 300 tonnes per day production capability, which requires the business to have a bespoke Environmental Permit to operate, from the Environment Agency. This bread plant came in to full operator shift pattern production in July 2018.

The site operates with various shift patterns, including 24/7 working, and depending on the availability of the equipment which is dependent on orders; maintenance; product changeovers and cleaning cycles.

The production process for bread products involves the mixing, forming, proving, baking, slicing, packing, dispatch and distribution of these products. The production of sweet biscuits and treats follows the involves the mixing, forming, baking of biscuits, coating and / or decorating, packing, dispatch and distribution. FRS has its own fleet of vehicles that distribute product locally and nationally.

As a food processor FRS operates under highly regulated conditions, predominantly the regulations of the British Retail Consortium (BRC) system and under guidelines established by various food retailers, FRS maintains an AA* rating in all facilities which is the highest rating.

The production of the finished goods is governed by several regulations including labelling, weights and measures and Food Safety. The site operates processes to manage compliance to these technical requirements including Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) for food safety and check weighers for product control.

All product is baked in similar process steps the details of these are listed in the body of the submission;

Raw materials storage – bulk silos and small lot. (i.e. sacks)

Mixing – ingredients are mixed together into homogenous master blends

Forming – product is sub-divided into small quantities to match the future desired product weight

Proving – product is ‘aged’ to allow ‘rising’ of the dough prior to baking

Baked – the ingredients are baked at the appropriate time and temperature

Cooled – product is air cooled to control packing temperature and quality

Finishing – product is sliced or decorated to the required customer specification

Packaging – the product is packed into paper or plastic finished materials

Despatch – product is picked to order

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Distribution – product is distributed locally and nationally predominantly via own fleet of vehicles.

Auxiliary activity undertaken on site includes vehicle maintenance; washing and cleaning of equipment and plant; plant maintenance and storage of raw materials and finished goods.

Auxiliary processes;

Maintenance – plant and vehicles are maintained to ensure safety and quality of product and people

Cleaning – plant and vehicles are cleaned to ensure food safety and hygiene standards.

The Vehicle Maintenance Unit operates under the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) Heavy Goods Vehicle Operator License and maintains a DVLA Operator Compliance Risk Score (OCRS) of Green - this is the highest rating and indicates a Low Risk Operator.

The business operates a Quality Management System, a Health and Safety Management System and an Environmental Management System.

The Quality Management System is required for our BRC certification.

The Health and Safety Management System is a site-based system.

The Environmental Management System is a site-based system.

These systems are evolving over time and as regulation change.

The site has three discharge consents, from our local water wholesaler United Utilities plc, for disposal to foul sewer of the trade effluent produced by the processes. The consents include a percentage of water used for domestic and welfare facilities, which also drain to foul sewer.

The site does not have any effluent treatment plant or equipment on site.