Environmental Management System Summary

The document outlines the Environmental Management System for Blancomet Recycling UK Ltd, detailing site operations, waste management procedures, and compliance with environmental regulations.

Location of Blancomet Recycling Facility

Blancomet Recycling Ltd operates a hazardous waste treatment facility in Stone, Staffordshire, with plans for permit variation.

- The facility is located at Opal Way, Stone Business Park, Staffordshire, ST15 0SS.
- The site currently processes 22,300 tonnes per annum of various waste types, including catalytic converters and batteries.
- It is not located within an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and has a low flood risk classification.
- The nearest residential area is approximately 400m away.

Historical Context of the Site

The site has transitioned from farmland to an industrial park since the early 2000s.

- Historical maps indicate the site was open farmland as far back as 1898.
- Google Earth imagery shows industrial development began in 2001.

Design and Layout of the Facility

The facility is designed for efficient waste processing with specific areas for different operations.

- The site features a large central building and two smaller units, all constructed with concrete.
- Waste is received through designated roller shutter doors for immediate inspection and sorting.
- The facility can handle 17,500 tonnes of hazardous waste and 4,800 tonnes of non-hazardous waste annually.

Operational Processes for Waste Management

The facility employs various processes for the treatment and recycling of different waste types.

- Catalytic converters are sorted, cut, crushed, and mixed in dedicated areas.
- Lead-acid batteries undergo cutting, acid collection, and separation processes.

- Non-lead-acid batteries are stored securely without treatment.
- Wiring looms are granulated and separated into copper and plastic components.

Vulnerable Locations and Sensitive Receptors

The site is situated near sensitive receptors, including residential areas and educational institutions.

- Closest residential properties are 400m away, with schools located 670m and 980m away.
- The River Trent is approximately 825m to the northeast, with part of it in a Local Nature Reserve.

Drainage and Pollution Control Measures

The site has effective drainage and pollution control systems to prevent contamination.

- The facility is entirely surfaced with impermeable concrete, minimizing runoff risks.
- Spill kits and FloodSax barriers are available for emergency situations.

Waste Types and Management Procedures

The facility handles both hazardous and non-hazardous waste, adhering to strict acceptance criteria.

- Hazardous waste includes ceramic matrix catalytic converters and lead-acid batteries.
- Non-hazardous waste consists of steel matrix catalytic converters and alloy wheels.
- Waste is retained for a maximum of 30 days for hazardous and 60 days for non-hazardous materials.

Waste Acceptance and Handling Protocols

Strict procedures are in place for waste acceptance and handling to ensure compliance.

- All incoming waste loads are inspected for conformity with EWC codes.
- Non-conforming waste is segregated and managed according to established procedures.

Site Operations and Maintenance

The facility operates various mobile plant equipment and follows a maintenance schedule.

- A forklift truck is used for daily operations, with routine inspections conducted.

- Site inspections are performed daily to ensure compliance with safety and operational standards.

Environmental Management and Control Measures

The facility implements measures to control dust, noise, odour, litter, and pests.

- Dust control includes regular cleaning and minimizing drop heights during unloading.
- Noise is managed by restricting operations to set hours and switching off engines when idle.
- Odour and litter are addressed promptly, with pest control measures in place if needed.

Flood Risk and Contingency Plans

The site has a low flood risk classification and established contingency plans for emergencies.

- In the event of a flood or fire, operations will cease, and access will be restricted.
- Flood Sax barriers are deployed to mitigate flood risks.

Climate Change Considerations

The facility acknowledges potential impacts of climate change on operations and supply chains.

- Risks include extreme weather events such as floods, heatwaves, and storms.
- The facility is prepared to adapt to these changing climate conditions.

Increased Summer Temperatures and Fire Risks

The site is expected to experience summer temperatures approximately 7°C higher than typical, increasing the risk of fires.

- Extreme temperatures may exceed 40°C with increasing frequency.
- Blancomet Recycling UK Ltd handles low-risk materials, minimizing fire reaction likelihood.
- Operations occur within an enclosed building, providing shade and reducing fire risk.
- The site is surfaced with concrete or tarmac, eliminating dry vegetation that could increase fire risk.

Winter Temperature Changes and Pipework Risks

Winter temperatures may rise by 4°C, posing risks of pipework freezing.

- Increased risk of leaks from frozen pipework is a concern.
- Insulation and trace heating for exposed pipes will be reviewed.
- Regular inspections and maintenance of pipework are already in place.

Increased Rainfall and Flooding Concerns

Daily rainfall intensity may increase by up to 20%, raising concerns about flooding.

- The site is entirely indoors, eliminating runoff and drainage concerns.
- Spillages will be managed with on-site spill kits.
- No drainage systems are necessary as operations occur within an enclosed building.

Average Winter Rainfall and Flood Zone Status

Winter rainfall could increase by over 40%, but the site is in a low-risk flood zone.

- The site is classified as Flood Zone 1, indicating minimal flood risk.
- Existing drainage is deemed suitable for current operations.
- No concerns regarding drainage systems being overwhelmed due to indoor operations.

Sea Level Rise and Flood Risk Mitigation

Sea levels may rise by up to 0.6m, but the site has flood defenses in place.

- Blancomet Recycling UK Ltd is located in a low-risk area for sea flooding.
- Flood defenses help mitigate potential risks from sea level rise.

Drier Summers and Water Usage

Summers may see up to 40% less rainfall, impacting water usage for dust suppression.

- The site does not rely on mains water for dust suppression.
- Fire water is sourced from a nearby hydrant, maintained by the Fire and Rescue service.

River Flow Variability and Discharge Risks

River flow could peak at 50% more than current levels, affecting discharge capabilities.

- The site does not discharge surface water into any river systems.
- No risk of drainage backing up as there is no discharge to watercourses.

Storm Frequency and Structural Risks

Increased storm frequency and intensity may pose risks to building structures.

- Storms could lead to potential damage and fugitive emissions.
- The site operates within an enclosed building, which may mitigate some risks.
- Damage will be reported and repaired within 7 days as per maintenance protocols.

Personnel Responsibilities and Training

The site has a structured management system ensuring personnel are trained and competent.

- Site management is responsible for training operatives in waste handling.
- Training is documented and refreshed annually through toolbox talks.

Record Keeping and Permit Management

All records related to maintenance and operations are systematically kept on-site.

- The permit is stored physically and digitally for accessibility.
- Incident logs and site diaries are maintained for transparency and compliance.

Site Condition and Environmental Assessment

The site is assessed for environmental conditions and historical contamination.

- The site has a history of agricultural use with no recorded pollution incidents.
- The concrete surface prevents pollution pathways to soil and water.

Fire Control and Prevention Measures

Fire prevention measures are in place, including hydrants and extinguishers.

- AFFF foam fire extinguishers are available for initial fire response.
- Good housekeeping practices are followed to minimize fire risks.

Complaint Management Procedures

Complaints are addressed according to established procedures.

- The site follows a specific complaints procedure to ensure timely responses.
- All complaints are documented and investigated promptly.

Environmental Management System Review

The Environmental Management System is reviewed annually and after incidents.

- Reviews include staff training and updates to procedures as necessary.
- Findings from reviews are documented and addressed accordingly.