



Non-Technical Summary

Anochrome Limited specialises in the surface treatment of metal components and is located within a facility at Reservoir Place, Pleck, Walsall, West Midlands, WS2 9RZ. Anochrome Limited operates autonomously within the wider Kingsland Group and employs approximately 57 people at Reservoir Place where it has been situated since 1950.

The 'installation' is operated in accordance with environmental permit ref: EPR/BN0112IN (the Permit) which was issued in 2004 under the Pollution Prevention and Control (England and Wales) Regulations 2000 (PPC Regulations) as amended; the Permit was subsequently varied in 2010.

The Permit allows the operator to carry out activities at the site described in Section 2.3 Part A(1)(a) in Part 1 to Schedule 1 of the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016 (EPR) as 'surface treating metals and plastic materials using an electrolytic or chemical process where the aggregated volume of the treatment vats is more than 30m³'

The current permitted activities are summarised below in Table 1:

Activity listed in Schedule 1 of the EPR/Associated Activity	Description of specified activity	Limits of specified activity
Section 2.3 A(1)(a): Surface treatment of metals or plastics	Electroplating including zinc plating, zinc phosphating, zinc nickel and hexavalent chromium conversion coatings.	Receipt of raw materials to despatch of finished product and storage/transfer of wastes off-site or to effluent treatment plant
Associated Activities: Storage and handling of raw materials products and intermediates	Storage of solid and liquid materials in bulk storage tanks, drums, IBC's, bags and other containers	Receipt and storage of raw materials and intermediates to transfer to processing areas or offsite
Associated Activities: Chemical/mechanical preparation	Activities directly associated with surface treatment processes	Receipt of raw materials to despatch of finished product
Associated Activities: rinsing, drying, post treatment	Activities directly associated with surface treatment processes	Receipt of raw materials to despatch of finished product
Associated Activities: fume extraction and abatement	Activities directly associated with surface treatment processes	Receipt of raw materials to despatch of finished product
Associated Activities: Effluent treatment plant,	Activities directly associated with surface treatment processes	Receipt of wastes from production plant to transfer of effluent to sewer or of wastes off-site
Associated Activities: Waste storage	Effluent treatment plant, Filter cake and spent treatment chemicals etc	Receipt of wastes from production plant. Disposal of effluent to foul sewer or storage of waste for off-site disposal.
Associated Activities: Cathodic electrophoretic painting	Activities directly associated with the surface treatment processes	Receipt of raw materials to dispatch of finished product

Table 1: List of Permitted Activities

Anochrome Limited is now seeking permission to vary the Permit in accordance with Section 20 of the EPR (as amended) to support a number of development proposals covering:

- a) Extension of the permitted area and boundary to include additional existing site buildings and land

- b) Installation of a new automatic VAT line to operate on more favourable less environmentally hazardous technology (acid zinc) in an existing building (Bay 3) located within the proposed extended permit area with accompanying requirements for:
 - i. Design and installation of associated chemical supply, storage and containment facilities
 - ii. Design and installation of a new emission point to air
 - iii. Enhanced surface protection of the underlying impermeable floor in selected areas
- c) Decommissioning and removal of the existing automatic VAT line which operates on less favourable more environmentally hazardous technology (cyanide zinc)
- d) Decommissioning and removal of the emission point to air (denoted A1 in the Permit) associated with the existing automatic VAT line

The proposed changes are further detailed in the accompanying Permit variation application documents particularly:

- VarApp July 2024
- Plans Drawings July 2024

Realisation of the above proposed changes will lead to an increase in the aggregate volume of the treatment tanks from approximately 70m³ to approximately 95m³. The use of acid zinc technology in preference to cyanide zinc technology reflects the use of Best Available Techniques (BAT)*.

The main environmental impact associated with operating the new automatic VAT line would be the potential discharge of emissions to the atmosphere. The new automatic VAT line has been designed using appropriate BAT and the potential air quality impact from the proposed new and remaining existing plating lines has been assessed by carrying out an air quality impact assessment. The air quality assessment indicated that the combined new automatic VAT line and the retained existing plating lines would not have any significant impact on air quality at the location.

The installation of the new automatic VAT line does not alter the effluent quality to be discharged from the site to sewer. The new automatic VAT line and existing effluent treatment plant are designed to ensure ongoing compliance with the existing discharge consent during its operation.

The installation of the new automatic VAT line would also realise a reduction in the use of:

- a) Sodium cyanide as the new automatic VAT line will operate on acid zinc technology rather than the cyanide zinc technology currently utilised by the existing automatic VAT line
- b) Water for rinses due to the use of more efficient rinsing sequences than currently utilised by the existing automatic VAT line
- c) Electricity per unit output in comparison to that needed for the existing Automatic VAT line based on cyanide zinc technology

* BREF August 2006; EPR 2.07; Process Guidance Note 4/01