

BAE SYSTEMS

Part B Environmental Permit PPC/B/05

LAPPC Annual Report 2019

Author: Bob Morris

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Authorised by:

Mr Peter Winder

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BAE SYSTEMS Maritime - Submarines, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria LA14 1AF, United Kingdom

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Executive Summary

BAE Systems Maritime – Submarines (BAES) use a Solvent Reduction Scheme for preventing and minimising emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and are required to submit an annual report each year, accompanied by two Solvent Management Plans (SMPs), in order to demonstrate compliance with the Part B Environmental Permit issued by the Local Authority.

For the period 1st November 2018 – 31st October 2019, the annual actual solvent emissions determined from the SMP's are both less than the target emissions, demonstrating compliance with the Solvent Reduction Scheme.

All of the point source emission stacks were found to be within the limits for particulates during the annual monitoring campaign.

The Permit was varied last year (2018) at BAE Systems' request to accommodate a newly constructed Central Coatings Facility (CCF) in the Central Yard which is now in operation.

Subsequent to the trial of Wessex primer application by spray as opposed to brush and roller application we have introduced this as a standard operating method.

We have also introduced a high solids product, Intergard 5000 for work on the Dreadnought programme. This will give a better balance of solids to VOC content.

We have a new waste storage facility for waste coatings which is an improvement on the old one and allows us to better manage the waste.

The Integrated Work Team that was set up to oversee and manage the data process has met on a monthly basis and has proved to be effective in managing the data and highlighting potential risks.

1. Introduction

BAE Systems Maritime – Submarines (BAES) is an installation regulated under the statutory Local Air Pollution Prevention and Control (LAPPC) Regime for Coating and Adhesive Processes. The annual solvent consumption of activities at the site is greater than 5 tonnes and therefore requires a Part B Environmental Permit, issued under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (EPR16), by the Local Authority.

The activities covered by the Permit include the cleaning and painting of surfaces during the manufacture of submarines, and the use of adhesive coatings, as defined in Sections 6.4 Part B and Section 7 Part B (a) of Schedule 1 of EPR16. Surface preparation and shot blasting are directly associated activities and also regulated under the Permit.

BAES also operate a Di-isocyanate process regulated under Section 4.1 Part B of Schedule 1 of EPR16; however an exemption was granted on the grounds of triviality as the process emits prescribed substances to air in such small quantities that they are incapable of causing harm. This activity is therefore not regulated by the Permit, although conditions on the judgement of the exemption are to be complied with.

BAES are also responsible for ensuring that the Blast and Spray arrangement (contracted to Denholm) complies with the Permit.

2. Non VOC Emissions Limits

The annual monitoring of non-VOC emissions, namely Particulate Matter, was begun on 15th May 2019 and completed on 6th June 2019. The report was issued to the Local Authority on the 23rd July 2019. All results were found to be within the specified limits.

3. Reduction Scheme

BAES complies with the LAPPC Regime and the EU Industrial Emissions Directive through the Solvent Reduction Scheme. This requires BAES to determine solvent consumption in the manufacturing process and to achieve emission reductions to a 'target emission' that is equivalent to those which would have been achieved if the concentration limits had been applied. The Solvent Management Plan (SMP) for 2019 contains data for the period 1st of November 2018 - 31st October 2019.

The SMP calculates a target emission for VOC by multiplying the total mass of solids in coatings, over a 12 month period, with the Target Emission Figure (0.6 – Paints / 1.2 - Adhesives) for solvent consumption between the 5 – 15 tonne threshold.

3.1. Coating of Metal and Plastic Processes (Painting)

The target emission for the reporting period for the coating of metal and plastic processes was 10,990 kilograms. The actual emission was 9,395 kilograms with a difference of 1,596 kilograms, demonstrating compliance with the reduction scheme.

3.2. Adhesive Processes

The target emission for the reporting period for the adhesive processes was 22,292 kilograms. The actual emission was 3,644 kilograms with a difference of 18,648 kilograms, demonstrating compliance with the reduction scheme.

4. Future Reduction Options

In addition to complying with the target emission, the Permit also requires that future reduction options are considered and included in the annual report. This includes mechanisms to decrease the average solvent content of the total input and/or systems to increase the efficiency in the use of solids to achieve a reduction of the total emissions from the installation.

BAES use coatings that are based on performance requirements, VOC and health and safety criteria of the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

The MOD makes it a requirement for low VOC materials, and paint manufacturers and suppliers are reminded that any formulation changes to their existing products must be advised. They will then be required on request, to provide the Institute of Naval Medicine (INM), with full product formulation data. Failure to do so will automatically result in the withdrawal of MOD acceptance.

For the benefit of New-Building Specifications, if a paint system can offer cost benefits but one part of it has a VOC level higher than the MOD target value, the actual VOC value must be equal to or less than the current stated value. Data will be required supporting the case, including a statement that the total VOCs' emitted to the atmosphere during application, will be equal to or less than when applying a paint scheme fully in accordance with the MOD target values.

Warpaint is the main guidance document of acceptable paint coatings for in-service and new-build Royal Naval Vessels.

5. Control Techniques

BAES continue to monitor all aspects of Permit requirements for controlling and minimising VOC emissions through planned inspections and area checks. During 2019 BAE have installed a new waste storage facility for waste coatings material which enables us to continue proper control and management of the waste.

6. Review of VOC Cleaning

BAES currently uses various solvents containing volatile organic compounds (VOCs) for the purpose of cleaning. This section looks at the processes and substances used, to identify ways for BAES to decrease its solvent emissions. The two processes under the permit that require the use of cleaning solvents are the coating of metal and plastic processes, and adhesive coatings.

BAES uses Methylene Chloride which is a designated risk phrase material (R40) as part of the cleaning process for the di-isocyanate activity to remove residues of polyurethane from the casting machines only. Although the di-isocyanate activity falls within the scope of the Environmental Permitting (England) Regulations 2016, this is exempt under triviality. Alternatives to Methylene Chloride have been explored in the past but BAES are bound by Ministry of Defence (MoD) technical specifications and, at present, no suitable alternative has been identified.

De Solv It DS1000 is a citrus based degreasing agent that BAES continues to use. It has been brought into the degreasing process to help reduce the use of Bostik M501, which is both highly volatile and flammable, and therefore has benefits in terms of fire safety and environmental impact. It is not possible to use De Solv It DS1000 for all applications as the citrus content leaves a residue that is not permitted in some quality aspects.

For the period 2018-2019, for both Painting and Adhesive processes, BAES are well within the Target Emission Factor set by the Reduction Scheme. The vast majority of the thinners are used to clean spray guns.

7. Air Quality

All of the specified emission stacks on site continue to meet the requirements of the Permit.

8. Facility Upgrades

7.1. Site Redevelopment Programme

Significant redevelopment of the submarine manufacturing site at Barrow was required in order to provide the facilities to manufacture the future Dreadnought class submarines. The new Central Coatings Facility, C53 is one of the new facilities where significant coating activities will be carried out. The CCF commenced operations in the first quarter of 2019. BAES applied to the Local Authority for a variation of the Part B Environmental Permit PPC/B/05 to take account of the new facilities. The variation was granted in July 2018.

9. Appropriate Management Systems

BAES operate an Environmental Management System, accredited to the international standard, ISO 14001, in addition to both Health and Safety (18001) and Quality (9001) Management Systems. The EMS requires the Company to continually improve practises to remain certified. LRQA audit BAES on several occasions throughout the year and re-certify the EMS every 3 years; the Company EMS was recertified in November 2017.

References

MOD (2019) Warpaint (Issue 45). Defence Equipment and Support. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/warpaint>