



Scottish Environment
Protection Agency
Buidheann Dion
Àrainneachd na h-Alba

Mowi Scotland Limited
Mowi Farms Office
Glen Nevis Industrial Estate
Fort William
PH33 6RX

Our Ref: **Redacted**

Your Ref:

24 April 2025

Sent by email to: environment@mowi.com

Dear Sir / Madam

Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003

The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) Scotland) Regulations 2011 (As Amended)

Location: Ardgour (Linnhe) Marine Pen Fish Farm, Loch Linnhe

Permit Reference: CAR/L/1009970

Subject: Assessment of Compliance with Permit Conditions

I am writing with reference to the inspection of the Ardgour (Linnhe) MPFF site on the 10 April 2025 to assess compliance against the conditions of the above permit.

The following non-compliance with respect to the conditions of the permit was identified by the site inspection. Non-compliances assessed as meeting draft major non-compliance criteria are highlighted (see Annex 1 for further detail):

Condition	Non-compliance	Major non-compliance
3.6.2	Minium 7 days notice of intention to treat with emamectin benzoate in August 2024 not provided. Notification received 13 August 2024 for the treatment which started on the 15 August 2024.	No



Chair
Lisa Tennant

CEO
Nicole Paterson

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Tel: 03000 99 66 99
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What you should do now

You should consider the outcome of the assessment and within 28 days of the date of this letter, provide an explanation as to why the non-compliance has occurred and what steps have been/ will be implemented to ensure the non-compliance does not occur again.

Although SEPA continues to assess compliance with permit conditions, we have ceased to apply our Compliance Assessment Scheme (CAS). The last year for which site level compliance was provided under this scheme was 2019. SEPA is currently in the process of developing a replacement for CAS. It will be known as the Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme. Summary information is provided in Annex 1 and further information, including FAQs, are available on our website

<https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/authorisations-and-permits/performance-assessment-scheme/>

If you require any further information regarding the content of this letter or wish to discuss its content, please do not hesitate to contact myself on Redacted or Redacted @sepa.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

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Enc: Ardgour MPFF Inspection Report

Annex 1: Developing a replacement to the 2009-2019 Compliance Assessment Scheme

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SEPA is developing a new approach to how we assess and publicly report compliance information. This approach will replace the 2009-2019 Compliance Assessment Scheme and will be known as the Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme.

How does this affect you now?

Compliance information we have been collecting since April 2023 will be used to inform a consultation which is expected to be published by 31 March 2025.

Feedback to this consultation will be used to finalise our approach. Our intention is to implement the new approach from 2026, but this will be contingent on consultation responses.

What information will SEPA collect?

- date compliance verification work was undertaken
- type of compliance verification work we undertook e.g. site inspection (announced or unannounced), remote review of operator submission
- compliance category assigned as a result of the verification – compliant, non-compliant, major non-compliant
- the high-level reason for non-compliance
- whether operator has an agreed improvement plan in place with SEPA (*only applicable to major non-compliant authorisations*)
- date operator rectified the issue as verified by SEPA (*only applicable to non-compliant authorisations*)

What is major non-compliance?

Major non-compliance represents what we consider to be the more significant type of non-compliance. The description of what we regard as draft major non-compliance can be found at https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/jbjnh5l/major_non_compliance.pdf This will be subject to consultation.

How will the information be used to develop an Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme?

The Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme will be broader than simply whether or not an authorisation holder is fully compliant, non-compliant or majorly non-compliant with the conditions in their authorisation. It will likely factor in length of time in non-compliance, severity of the non-compliance, including impacts on people and the environment, how the operator responded to rectify a non-compliance, for example, through the implementation of an improvement plan. The onus is therefore on authorisation holders to remedy non-compliance as quickly as possible.

We propose to rate environmental performance as Good, Acceptable or Unacceptable. We recognise that in some instances an operator's environmental performance may be acceptable or even good, even when some non-compliance is recorded.

How will you communicate with me during the year?

We will endeavour to communicate the outcome of any compliance verification work swiftly. The outcome will be categorised in the following way: compliant, non-compliant or major non-compliant. This is not the Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme outcome. This will not be introduced until after the consultation.

The exception to this is remote assessments we undertake e.g. review of reports, data returns or discharge sampling to assess water quality. In general, we will only communicate the outcome of this type of compliance verification work where our assessment highlights non-compliance.

In cases where we attend your site, we aim to communicate non-compliances verbally on the day of the inspection and will follow-up in writing within 10 days. In cases where we remotely assess data the non-compliance will commence from the date that information was submitted to us and will end on the date you provide suitable evidence that compliance has been recovered.

What should I do now?

- Continue to take all necessary steps to comply with your environmental obligations
- If non-compliance is identified, then take all steps necessary to recover compliance as quickly as possible.

Further information, including FAQs, can be found on SEPA's website

<https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/authorisations-and-permits/performance-assessment-scheme/>