

IPPC Documents

BAT 17

Waste recycling facility and baling plant

Hal Far, l/o Birżebbuġa

Variation of IP0004/12/A

Dr. Joe A Doublet PhD (Wales)

Applicant

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Architect

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- a) During the last five years Gasparell has undertaken a number of noise assessments in order to identify the sources of noise emissions from its operations which mainly dealt with the operation of the Shredder. The outcome from these assessments was the building of an enclosure around the Shredder which was eventually found to be effective to attenuate the noise which was generated.

The protocol in place was that initially a noise assessment of the plant without the shredder in operation was taken in January 2018. Once the shredder was assembled and operated without panels a second assessment was undertaken in September 2018 and was found that the noise levels were exceeded for some of the noise sensitive receptors. Panels were installed and further assessments made until the noise levels were attenuated. Another report was presented in May 2019 following installation of noise attenuating panels around the shredder and the only location where the Shredder had an impact was in Location 2 which was a disused property owned by client. Following additional mitigation measures to attenuate the noise levels, another assessment was carried out in December 2019 and submitted in January 2020. In this case, the assessment showed that the impacts resulting on all noise receptors were minor, thanks to the noise attenuation panels installed.

The current IPPC permit establishes that noise monitoring is undertaken annually from seven noise sensitive receptors in the area. The various noise monitoring studies have shown that the only place from where there were slight changes in the ambient noise levels which could be attributed to the operations of the plant was from the closest noise sensitive receptor which is a building belonging to the client, otherwise the noise levels at the Tal-Papa housing estate and other noise receptors are not attributable to the operations of the site. This was also confirmed in the latest Noise monitoring report submitted in January 2023. Under the current circumstances client has requested that this monitoring will be reduced to three receptors and the frequency would also decrease (see Doc C 3.10).

- b) Doc C3.10
- c) Client is duty bound to keep a log of any complaints received on site. If there are any complaints submitted to client, then a record of the person or authority making the complaint is logged. If the person wants to remain anonymous the complaint is still logged but no feedback could be given. If the cause of the complaint is identified and addressed, then once this is done, the complainant is informed about the measures taken.
- d) Apart from the routine noise assessments as described in Doc 3.10, wherever the plant is started up and also during operations, operators will be listening to the engines running and if any strange noise or vibration levels are noticed, the necessary action will be undertaken primarily to identify the source of the increase in noise or vibration levels and secondly to address the issue since in most cases this would be associated with a malfunctioning issue of the plant itself which could result in additional damages. Once the issue is addressed then a test run is carried out in order to check whether the noise and vibration levels would have returned back to normal.