Fire Water Containment Engineering Confirmation Note

Frank Mercer & Sons Ltd – Chequerbent Works, Westhoughton

1. Purpose

This document confirms that the site's drainage infrastructure, surface construction, and operational controls provide adequate containment of fire water in the event of a worst-case fire scenario, in accordance with Environment Agency Fire Prevention Plan guidance and the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016.

2. Worst-Case Fire Scenario

The Fire Prevention Plan identifies the largest stockpile (Bay 8 – 61m^3) as the worst-case fire scenario. The required containment volume is calculated at 73m^3 based on a 4-hour firefighting duration under conservative assumptions.

3. Yard Surface Construction

All operational waste storage areas are constructed of impermeable hardstanding. The surface prevents infiltration to ground and is routinely inspected and maintained.

4. Drainage Infrastructure and Isolation

The site operates a sealed drainage system. In the event of a fire, drainage isolation procedures are implemented to prevent off-site discharge. Fire water is retained within the yard footprint.

5. Containment Capacity

The yard provides engineered ponding capacity based on a conservative 0.15m temporary depth across the operational hardstanding, exceeding the calculated 73m^3 requirement.

6. Secondary Controls

Tanker removal arrangements, spill kits, and emergency response coordination provide redundancy beyond primary containment measures.

7. Confirmation Statement

Frank Mercer & Sons Ltd confirms that fire water containment capacity exceeds worst-case requirements and that appropriate engineering and operational controls are in place.