

EPA Update on Odour in the Carrigtwohill Area relating to Merck Millipore P0571-04

Update 23/04/20

Since the EPA's last web update dated 20th April 2020, Merck Millipore Limited installed a new carbon filter unit and have made improvements to the existing carbon filter unit on site.

The EPA carried out an odour impact assessment in the Carrigtwohill area on the 21st April 2020. Faint to moderate damp odours were experienced by the inspector downwind of the Merck Millipore facility before and during the installation works. The odours appeared to reduce after the works were completed but the EPA's assessment was carried out before production levels were returned to normal. The EPA received further odour complaints the following night and day.

A further odour impact assessment was carried out today (23rd April 2020) in the Carrigtwohill area. Moderate mouldy/damp odours were experienced by the inspector downwind of the Merck Millipore facility between 8am and 9am. During a subsequent site visit, the inspector confirmed that the odours were coming from the odour abatement unit area of the waste water treatment plant. This indicates that the actions taken by the licensee to date have not been as effective as anticipated for eliminating odour nuisance in the Carrigtwohill area and further works are urgently required.

The licensee is required to continue to implement various short, medium and long-term actions necessary to reduce off-site odour impact from the site's activities. The licensee's progress in implementing these measures are tracked through the EPA's Compliance Investigation CI001845 into odour nuisance as well as daily telecons and compliance meetings between the EPA and the licensee.

The next steps include:

- The central part of the odour abatement unit is a biofilter. The media within this unit is unsuitable and needs to be changed. A delivery of new media is due next week. An installation plan is to be submitted by the licensee in advance of the works. The public will be notified of the nature, extent and potential impact of the works in advance.
- A report on the odour samples taken from around the waste water treatment plant (WWTP) on the 14/04/20 will be submitted early May. This will help to:
 - Identify further odour source within the WWTP;
 - Characterise the odour;
 - Identify ways in which the generation of odour can be reduced;
 - Identify ways in which the odour can be better collected and treated.

A further update will be posted on this webpage in due course.

Making Environmental Complaints

Environmental complaints can be made **directly to the Merck Millipore Limited site on 021 4883666**.

Alternatively, the Environmental Complaints section of the EPA website can be used to make complaints of an environmental nature using this Form:

[Online Complaint Form](#)

All complaints reported this way are captured by our internal enforcement system and are immediately viewable by enforcement inspectors. By using this method, you are guaranteed that your complaint will be received and acted upon quickly by the relevant enforcement team.