

Project No : 190

80-82 Southampton Row – Odour Control and Management

Michael Bull and Associates Ltd (MBAL) prepared an Odour Appraisal to accompany a planning application for a proposed restaurant at 80-82 Southampton Row, WC1B 4AR. In response to the submission, the Planning Officer at the London Borough of Camden raised the following issue:

“The Odour Appraisal scores the restaurant as being “High Risk” However, it states: The only cooking will be heating of soups and reheating of prepared dishes. There will be no frying or griddling of foods. The food preparation is therefore of a very low odour potential”

The High Risk score is the correct outcome of one of the odour assessment methods used (the DEFRA/EMAQ+ risk assessment approach). This method is a very widely applied but is a relatively simple method that takes into account four factors,

- the location of the vent;
- the distance to the nearest receptors;
- the size of the kitchen, and;
- the type of food being prepared.

While the nature of the food being prepared at the proposed location has a very low odour potential, as can be seen from Table 6 of the report, the other three factors result in a score that is within the high risk range.

This is a limitation of the DEFRA/EMAQ+ method, i.e. if the vent is located in an area of poor dispersion, the scoring will always suggest that there is a High Risk of odour impact whatever the cooking proposed. This is why a second approach (the IAQM SPR method) has been applied which concludes that there is a Low risk.

The DEFRA/EMAQ+ method also is a two stage method, as the scoring is undertaken assuming no mitigation is used. The outcome of the method is then used to determine the type of odour control equipment required. The method assumes that with the application of this mitigation, the odour impacts will be acceptable. In this case appropriate odour control equipment is specified to meet the calculated odour risk and both assessment methods would therefore conclude a Low risk of adverse odour impacts.

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