

Waste levy regulations

Updated July 2016

EPA 351/16: This guideline offers advice to assist compliance with the Environment Protection Regulations 2009.

A levy is payable by the licence-holder of a waste depot for all waste received that is to be disposed of at that depot. There is currently no levy payable on waste fill material¹ (formerly called 'clean fill').

Measuring waste

Solid waste-depots receiving 10,000 tonnes or more of solid waste for disposal in a financial year

Weighbridge requirements

Any depot in this category must have an on-site weighbridge. All waste, including waste fill material, must be weighed, other than waste delivered by vehicles described in Regulation 71(7) as Class 1–3. Depots can apply for an exemption from installing a weighbridge if they are to cease operating within 12 months of the financial year in which 10,000 tonnes or more of waste was disposed of.

Depots can choose to measure waste delivered in Class 1–3 vehicles, described in Regulation 71(7), by using either:

- an approved weighbridge

OR

- the average net mass of weight set out in Regulation 71(7) (Table 1).

Table 1 Average net mass of weight

Class	1	2	3
Description	Cars and station wagons	Car-type utilities, panel vans and single-axle box trailer	Large utilities, large vans, and multiple-axle trailers
Average net mass of solid waste (tonnes)	0.2	0.7	1.3

¹ Waste fill is defined in the *Environment Protection Regulations 2009* as:

... waste consisting of clay, concrete, rock, sand, soil or other inert mineralogical matter in pieces not exceeding 100 millimetres in length and containing chemical substances in concentrations (calculated in a manner determined by the Authority) less than the concentrations for those substances set out in the Regulation.

Volumetric survey

All depots in this category must provide a volumetric survey to the EPA within three months of the end of that financial year.

A volumetric survey is a series of site measurements used to determine the volume of waste disposed of at the depot. Such surveys can be carried out using either photogrammetric or traditional ground-based techniques. The first survey provides a base plan of the depot, with subsequent surveys showing the amount of waste deposited.

The volumetric survey must be prepared by an authorised person who is either a licensed or registered surveyor under the *Survey Act 1992* or a person, or person of a class, approved by the Authority.

Solid waste—depots receiving less than 10,000 tonnes of solid waste for disposal in a financial year

Weighbridge requirements

All depots (except non-metropolitan councils using the population-based formula) in this category must use an approved weighbridge, either on or off site, to weigh waste (including waste fill material) other than waste delivered by vehicles described in Regulation 71(7) as Class 1-3.

Depots can choose to measure waste delivered in Class 1–3 vehicles by using either:

- an approved weighbridge

OR

- the average net mass of weight set out in Regulation 71(7) (Table 1).

A waste depot licensee can apply for an exemption from using a weighbridge if adequate alternative methods of measuring waste are used.

Non-metropolitan council depots

A non-metropolitan council can use a population-based formula to calculate monthly waste if:

- it disposes of less than 10,000 tonnes of solid waste per depot in a financial year

AND

- all waste received for disposal is from non-metropolitan areas.

Population data is obtainable from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Non-metropolitan councils disposing of 10,000 tonnes or more of solid waste at a depot or disposing of waste from metropolitan areas cannot use the population-based formula. These councils must abide by the relevant section mentioned earlier.

Liquid waste—all depots

Methods used for measuring liquid waste include:

- a volume-measuring device installed at the depot and approved by the EPA
- an approved weighbridge or
- a certified cartnote signed by the producer and the transporter (Waste Transport Certificate or Waste Tracking Form).

Other methods are described in Regulation 71(6).

Reporting

All depots (except those using the population-based formula) must send a return to the EPA as soon as practicable after the last day of each month, giving the mass or volume of waste received at a depot. This is calculated by:

- in the case of waste weighed on a weighbridge installed prior to 8 August 2002—to the highest level of weighing accuracy for the particular design of weighbridge
- in any other case—to the nearest 0.02 tonnes or kilolitres.

1 Solid waste—metropolitan depot:

- the total mass (in tonnes) of waste (excluding waste fill material) received during each day of the month and a monthly total
- the total mass (in tonnes) of waste fill material received during each day of the month and a monthly total
- if using Regulation 71(7), the daily and monthly totals of vehicles in each class (1–3).

2 Solid waste—non-metropolitan depot:

- all of the above

AND

- the monthly total for the mass (in tonnes) of waste received from non-metropolitan premises.

3 Liquid waste—all depots:

- the total volume (in kilolitres) during each day of the month and a monthly total.

Frequently asked questions

What is considered ‘metropolitan’?

Metropolitan has the same meaning as described in the *Development Act 1993*.

What levy is charged for metropolitan waste disposed at a non-metropolitan depot?

The metro rate will apply.

What levy is charged for non-metropolitan waste disposed at a metropolitan depot?

Non-metropolitan waste transported *by or on behalf* of a council into metropolitan waste depots can have the non-metro rate apply (upon application). In all other cases the metro rate will apply.

Is the levy paid at transfer stations or recycling depots?

No, the levy is only applicable when the waste is disposed of.

Where is my nearest public weighbridge?

Locations of public weighbridges can be obtained from the National Measurement Institute website www.measurement.gov.au/Industry/Licensees/Pages/I-need-a-public-weighbridge-licensee.aspx

Can I still use the Regulation 71(7) averages?

The Regulation 71(7) averages can be used for estimating waste delivered in Class 1–3 vehicles only.

Can a non-metropolitan council depot still estimate waste by using the population-based formula?

Yes; however, the non-metropolitan council must receive less than 10,000 tonnes of solid waste for disposal per depot in a financial year and only dispose of waste from non-metropolitan areas.

When do I have to provide a volumetric survey?

Within three months of the end of any financial year in which 10,000 tonnes or more of solid waste was received.

Where can I obtain further information about the waste levy?

For all matters relating to waste levy, please call (08) 8204 2147 or (08) 8204 1757.

For information regarding EPA revenue, please call (08) 8204 2090.

Disclaimer

This publication is a guide only and does not necessarily provide adequate information in relation to every situation. This publication seeks to explain your possible obligations in a helpful and accessible way. In doing so, however, some detail may not be captured. It is important, therefore, that you seek information from the EPA itself regarding your possible obligations and, where appropriate, that you seek your own legal advice.

Further information

Legislation

[Online legislation](#) is freely available. Copies of legislation are available for purchase from:

Service SA Government Legislation Outlet
Adelaide Service SA Centre
108 North Terrace
Adelaide SA 5000

Telephone: 13 23 24
Facsimile: (08) 8204 1909
Website: <shop.service.sa.gov.au>
Email: <ServiceSAcustomerservice@sa.gov.au>

General information

Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 2607
Adelaide SA 5001

Telephone: (08) 8204 2004
Facsimile: (08) 8124 4670
Freecall: 1800 623 445 (country)
Website: <www.epa.sa.gov.au>
Email: <epainfo@epa.sa.gov.au>
