



Waste data – Overview of activity category reporting

Fact sheet for disposal facility operators and transfer station operators

From 1 July 2024 disposal facility operators will need to report additional information. This factsheet shows operators how to report on the activity category of the materials their facility receives.

What records to keep

There are seven activity categories (see [table 1](#) below) which cover the main activities that generate waste in Aotearoa New Zealand. The categories are broad so that it's as easy as possible for facility operators to group incoming gross waste materials.

Disposal facility operators must record the activity category of all the materials their facility receives at the weighbridge or other point of measurement (eg, kiosk, record book). For waste from multiple activities, the disposal facility should record the main activity category for that load.

How to report activity category tonnages

All disposal facility operators should be registered with the Online Waste Levy System (OWLS) and use it to submit their waste returns.

From 1 July 2024, when an operator submits a waste return in OWLS, they will also need to report on the activity category of all waste tonnages received at their facility via a new activity category report.

The gross tonnage of the waste return should match the total tonnage of the relevant activity categories.

An operator only needs to record the activity for waste tonnage coming into the disposal facility. Diverted tonnage reporting remains the same.

Activity categories

Table 1: Activity categories for waste disposal facility operators

Activity category	Description	Examples
Construction and demolition	Waste derived from the construction or demolition of buildings, structures, and infrastructure. This includes residential, industrial, and commercial structures, pipelines (above-ground and underground assets), roading, land development (including site clearance for building or subdivision construction), and regular slips or other debris not associated with a major natural hazard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste from individual or multiple building construction sites. Waste from infrastructure projects. Waste from the demolition of buildings. Soil or fill material from construction or demolition of services or foundations for buildings. Soil from 'greenfield' developments.
Mixed industrial, commercial, and institutional	General waste from activities wholly or mainly for the purposes of a trade, business or industry, or for the purposes of sport, recreation, education, healthcare, or agriculture, and not including residential premises. This includes retail and light manufacturing or industrial activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste from mixed commercial sources. Waste from council operations such as street sweeping and litter collection.
Heavy industrial	General waste primarily derived from heavy industrial or manufacturing activities, in dedicated loads generated by the primary activity of an industry. This includes, but is not limited to, tanneries, canning factories, dairy factories, timber or pulp mills, incineration activities, fisheries, and horticulture processing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste from individual large factories or large industrial businesses. Waste from food-production facilities. Waste from timber-processing plants.
Residential drop-off	Waste generated by residential premises that is dropped off to a facility and that is not entirely from construction, renovation, or demolition of the premises. Residential waste is composed of wastes from normal household activities and originating from residential premises or workplace activities that result in domestic-type waste (for example, lunch rooms, cafeterias). This does not include waste produced in the process of commercial or industrial undertakings. Loads of waste entirely from construction or demolition activities should be categorised as "Construction and demolition".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste from households delivered to a drop-off area. Waste from households received from gantry skip-bin collection.
Residential kerbside collections	Waste generated by residential activity that is collected at kerbside and that is composed of wastes from normal household activities and originating from residential premises or workplace activities that result in domestic-type waste (for example, lunch rooms, cafeterias). This does not include waste produced in the process of commercial or industrial undertakings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential waste received from kerbside collection.
Unusual activity	This category should be used only as an exception, to capture waste that does not fit into any of the other categories and that is from a distinct activity that occurs irregularly and significantly affects the overall composition of the waste stream.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe weather/emergency waste

Transfer station – mixed activities	Waste or diverted material that enters the facility from a transfer station. This includes loads from a transfer station to another transfer station and loads from a transfer station to a landfill. Waste or diverted material that enters a transfer station must be recorded under the relevant activity category associated with the activity that generated that waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each mixed-activity load must record the individual transfer station it is received from. • Waste received from an individual activity (eg. construction and demolition) should instead apply the individual activity source.
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The ‘transfer station’ category exists only for waste delivered **from** a transfer station to another facility. For all other loads, transfer stations must categorise the waste they **receive** into the appropriate activity category.

When to provide the report

From 1 July 2024 every disposal facility operator must provide an activity category report. This is a separate report that is completed in OWLS at the time the waste return is filed.

Please see the [Waste levy: Filing a waste return](#) factsheet for more information on when to file your waste return.

Why the Ministry is collecting this information

The activity category information will give the Ministry a better insight into the regional and national flow of waste materials and help the Ministry shape policies to minimise and manage waste. Aggregated data will be made available here: [Waste facilities and disposal | Ministry for the Environment](#).

Further information

Fact sheets in this series

This fact sheet is part of a series of fact sheets for disposal facility operators and transfer station operators regarding their waste data and waste levy reporting obligations.

- For more guidance on how to collect activity category data see the factsheet [Waste data – How to record and report the activity category](#).
- For information on conversion factors and measuring waste tonnage, please refer to the fact sheet [Waste levy – Measuring waste tonnages](#).

Find out more

For any questions about the new reporting requirements please email wastedataregsupport@mfe.govt.nz.

For any questions about using OWLS, please email info@wastelevy.govt.nz.

Or for general information visit the webpage [Waste disposal levy information and reporting requirements for site operators](#).

