



WASTE COLLECTION GUIDELINES



WASTE COLLECTION – GENERAL GUIDELINES

Waste collectors are exposed to a variety of potential health and safety hazards such as:

- Falling from a truck while travelling.
- Working in traffic.
- Coming into contact with wildlife.
- Receiving puncture wounds and cuts from such things as needles and broken glass.
- Becoming entangled in hydraulic equipment.
- Being splashed with contaminated liquids and chemicals.
- Suffering from back strain.
- Receiving crushing injuries when loading and unloading containers.

In an effort to address some of these problems, the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission (WHSCC) of New Brunswick is making recommendations with respect to both residential and commercial waste collection.

EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Operate, inspect and maintain waste collection equipment according to manufacturer's specifications.
- Train drivers to inspect and maintain the waste collection equipment they are operating, and ensure the driver does the inspections and maintenance.
- Train waste collectors how to work safely overall, and to take special care with waste collection equipment and containers. This training would include working with hazardous materials, proper lifting techniques, and working around wildlife (dogs, racoons, bees, etc.).



- Equip waste collection equipment with back-up alarms and retroreflective stickers so that it is highly audible and visible to traffic.
- Repair and eliminate reported deficiencies promptly. Do not allow equipment to be used until deficiencies that affect the safety of the operation are eliminated.
- When waste collectors are expected to ride on standing platforms, ensure the platforms and handholds are either provided by the manufacturer or designed by an engineer so that the collector can maintain four-point contact. Platforms and handholds must also meet the following criteria:

Platforms must:

- Be capable of supporting a vertical static load of 227 kg (500 lb) at the point furthest from the attachment point.
- Be mounted not more than 61 cm (24 in) above road surface.
- Have a depth of at least 20.3 cm (8 in) and have a minimum of 1250 cm² (220 sq in) of surface area.
- Be located behind the rearmost axle of the vehicle, but not extend beyond the rearmost structural portion of the vehicle so that the worker is protected from contact with roadside objects.
- Be constructed of self-cleaning, slip-resistant material (serrated steel grating).



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Handholds provided for standing platforms must:

- Be capable of withstanding a horizontal static load of at least 227 kg (500 lb).
- Be located at approximately shoulder height.

DRIVER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Inspect waste collection equipment at the beginning of every shift (including the vehicle). Do not forget to inspect standing platforms and handholds for signs of cracking or fatigue, and all safety devices to make sure they function properly.
- Report any deficiencies to the employer.
- Use a seat belt except as necessary during collection. For manual collection, wear a seatbelt when driving more than 30 km/h.
- For multiple-worker operations, with the waste collector standing on the platform, operate the vehicle:
 - At speeds no greater than 17 km/h.
 - For distances less than 300 m.
 - Only in a forward direction.
- Drivers must complete a 360-degree visual check to locate any pedestrians and co-workers before operating vehicle in reverse.

WASTE COLLECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- At the beginning of every shift, inspect the standing platforms and handholds for signs of cracking or fatigue; verify safety devices to ensure they will function.
- When the vehicle travels at speeds greater than 17 km/h or for distances greater than 300 m, travel in the cab and use a seat belt.
- Use the platform located on the curbside of the vehicle as much as possible.
- Remain on the standing platform until the vehicle has come to a complete stop.
- Do not attempt to collect refuse while riding on the standing platform or while the vehicle is in motion.
- Do not ride on the loading sill or in the hopper of a vehicle equipped with a compactor.
- Ride facing the side of the vehicle with both hands on the handholds.
- Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment:
 - High visibility vest
 - Steel-toed boots
 - Full-body covering
 - Safety glasses
 - Good quality leather gloves
- Be alert for traffic when collecting from both sides of the roadway during a pickup run.
- Stay clear of any pinch points during the compaction process.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR MECHANICAL OPERATIONS

EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES

(in addition to those found in the General Guidelines)

- Ensure that the lifting device on the collection truck is compatible with the container being unloaded.
- Ensure that there is a safe means of securing the container to the equipment during the lift. For rear-loading equipment, this means having safety bars to secure the container's trunnion bar in the holding bracket and washers that are at least 5.7 cm (2.5 in) in diameter at each end of the trunnion bar.
- Equip vehicles with an interlock so the vehicle and the compacting equipment cannot be operated simultaneously.
- Locate the controls for loading and unloading far enough away from the actual mechanism to protect the operator from hazards, yet close enough to allow the operator a view of the operation.

OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Inspect the vehicle daily, and report any deficiencies to the employer. Check the following:
 - Compacting equipment
 - Securing system for container (safety bar, holding brackets)
 - Hoisting system (winch, cable, hook)
 - Safety devices
- Do not operate equipment until deficiencies that affect the safety of the operation are eliminated.



- Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment:
 - High visibility vest
 - Good-quality leather gloves
 - Steel-toed boots
 - Full-body covering
 - Safety glasses
- Be alert for traffic.
- Stay clear of any pinch points during the compaction process.
- Never attempt to empty a container into the compacting unit unless it is compatible and is safely secured for lifting.
- When the volume of material within a container exceeds the volume capacity of the loading hopper, partially empty the container into the hopper, and lower the container to the ground until the compaction cycle is complete. Then the rest of the container can be emptied.
- Look out for overhead power lines when dumping or moving large containers.
- Inspect each container and its contents to verify:
 - Functioning safety devices
 - Distribution of waste
 - Location of any large objects
- Ensure that co-workers and pedestrians are a safe distance away from the container and possible falling debris before you begin the lift.
- Never stand under a container.
- When operating rear-loading compacting equipment, extreme caution should be taken to ensure that the container's trunnion bar does not come out of the holding brackets:
 - Safety bars are to be used at all times.
 - The trunnion bar on the waste container is to be fitted at each end with a minimum 5.7 cm (2.5 in) washer.

WASTE CONTAINER OWNER/USER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Be aware of the safety precautions and other information associated with the use of waste containers. Containers must be placed on a hard and level surface, and loaded uniformly, with no refuse extending beyond the internal volume of the container.
- For owners: the trunnion bar on the waste container is to be fitted at each end with a minimum 5.7 cm (2.5 in) washer.
- Use all safety devices provided on containers and lifting systems.
- If the user is not the owner, inform the owner and waste collector of any damage, defect, or malfunction of the container.
- Train employees in the use, handling and placement of the containers and ensure they heed all warning labels.

In addition to these requirements that are specific to waste collection equipment and containers, please refer to sections 230.2 to 230.5 of *General Regulation 91-191* (pertaining to vehicles), under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.