

Digital Waste Tracking (DWT)

Receipt of Waste — Plain-English Guide

What this document is for: a plain-English explanation of what a waste-receiving site needs to record for Defra's Digital Waste Tracking (DWT) service when waste arrives on site — what's always required, what's “it depends,” and exactly what to put down if something is missing (e.g. no consignment code). It also lists the standardised codes (means of transport, container types, etc.) so anyone on the team can complete a receipt correctly.

Mandatory from October 2026 (England & Wales).

1. The three levels of information

Every waste receipt is really three things bundled together:

- The movement — when it arrived, who brought it, who received it.
- The waste item(s) — what the waste actually is (there can be more than one waste item per movement).
- The people involved — the carrier, the receiving site, and optionally a broker/dealer.

If you keep those three buckets in mind, the whole form makes a lot more sense.

2. Always required — no exceptions

These fields must be filled in on every single receipt, no matter what:

Field	Plain English	Example
Date & time received	Exact date and time the waste arrived	15/09/2025 12:12
Waste description(s)	At least one EWC code and a written description of the waste	EWC 200708, “Mixed fluorescent tubes, boxed”
Number & type of containers	How many containers, and what kind	4 × [SKI] Skip
Weight	Unit, amount, and whether it's estimated or measured — required for every waste item	Kilograms, 150, estimated: true
Whether the waste is hazardous	Yes/No tick box	—
Disposal or recovery code	At least one D or R code per waste item, showing how it will be treated	R1
Carrier organisation name	Who transported it	Acme Skips Ltd
Means of transport	How it got to site	Road
Carrier registration number (or a valid reason it's missing — see section 3)	The carrier's waste carrier licence	CBDU123456
Receiving site authorisation number	Your site's permit/licence number	EPR/AB1234CD

Field	Plain English	Example
Receiving address & postcode	Where the waste was physically received	Must be a UK postcode

Everything else on the form is either optional, or only becomes required in a specific situation — those are the “conditional” fields below.

2.1 Weight — what's required inside it

Weight is not just one field, it's three, and all three are mandatory whenever weight is given (and weight itself is mandatory per waste item):

Field	Mandatory	What it means
metric	Yes	Unit of measurement — must be Grams, Kilograms, or Tonnes
amount	Yes	Total weight in that unit, must be a positive number (greater than 0)
isEstimate	Yes	true if the weight is estimated, false if it was actually measured

2.2 Disposal or recovery code — what's required

Every waste item needs at least one disposal or recovery code (a “D” or “R” code) showing how the waste will ultimately be treated. This is mandatory, not optional — Defra's own guidance states there must be at least one D or R code per EWC code.

3. Conditional fields — what triggers them, and what to enter instead

This is the part that trips people up. Below, each section shows: the field, when it becomes required, and — critically — what to put instead if you don't have the normal answer.

3.1 No hazardous waste consignment code?

Consignment code is required if: any of the EWC codes on the movement are for hazardous waste.

If you don't have a consignment code, you must instead give a reason, using one of these three exact values:

Situation	Enter this reason code
The waste transfer isn't hazardous waste at all	NON_HAZ_WASTE_TRANSFER
Hazardous, but no paperwork came with the waste	NO_DOC_WITH_WASTE
Received at a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)	HWRC_RECEIPT

You can never provide both a consignment code and a reason — it's one or the other.

If you do have a consignment code, it must be in the right format for your nation:

Nation	Format	Example
England & Wales	6 letters/numbers, a slash, then 5 letters/numbers	AB12CD/12345
Scotland	SA, SB or SC + 7 digits	SB1234567

Nation	Format	Example
Northern Ireland / Ireland	DA, DB or DC + 7 digits	DA5301234

3.2 Waste is hazardous — components

If “is the waste hazardous?” = Yes, you must also give the hazardous property codes (see section 5.3) and a source for that information:

Source value	Meaning	If you skip listing the actual components
NOT_PROVIDED	You don't have component detail	Fine — leave the components list empty
PROVIDED_WITH_WASTE	It came with the waste's paperwork	You'll get a warning (not blocked)
GUIDANCE	Based on published guidance	You'll get an error — at least one component required
OWN_TESTING	You tested it yourself	You'll get an error — at least one component required

So: if you pick GUIDANCE or OWN_TESTING, you must list the actual chemical/biological components (name + concentration in mg/kg) or the submission will be rejected.

3.3 Waste contains persistent organic pollutants (POPs)?

Exactly the same pattern as hazardous components, just for POPs:

Source value	What happens if no components listed
NOT_PROVIDED	Fine
PROVIDED_WITH_WASTE	Warning only
GUIDANCE	Error — must list at least one
OWN_TESTING	Error — must list at least one

3.4 Vehicle registration

Required only if means of transport is Road. If it went by rail, sea, air, etc. you don't need a vehicle registration.

3.5 No carrier registration number?

Normally required. If the carrier doesn't have one, you must instead give a reason:

Situation	Enter this reason code
Waste moved within the same site/premises	ONSITE
A householder is transporting their own waste	HOUSEHOLD
A genuine one-off / infrequent transport job	ONE_OFF
Marine transport under a marine licence/exemption	MARINE

As with the consignment code, it's registration number or reason — never both, never neither.

If you do have a registration number, the format depends on nation:

Nation	Format examples
England / Wales	CBDL999999 (Lower Tier) or CBDU999999 (Upper Tier)
Scotland (SEPA)	WCR/R/1234567, or legacy SCO/123456, SEA/123456
Northern Ireland	ROC UT 9999 or ROC LT 9999

3.6 Special handling requirements

Not mandatory as a field, but you should fill it in whenever the waste is abnormally hazardous or has characteristics needing special handling on site (max 5,000 characters).

4. Fields that are always optional

These never block a submission, but are useful to fill in where you have them:

- Your own reference (e.g. weighbridge ticket number, WTN number)
- Other references (label + value pairs, e.g. "PO Number: PO-12345")
- Site name, email, phone number (for both carrier and receiver)
- Broker or dealer details (only needed at all if a broker/dealer was involved)
- Regulatory Position Statement (RPS) numbers, if relevant to the site
- The weight recorded specifically against a disposal/recovery code (separate from the waste item's overall weight, which is mandatory — see section 2.1)

5. Standardised lists (dropdown values)

These are taken directly from the official reference lists. Everything below is case-sensitive — enter it exactly as shown.

5.1 Means of transport

Road · Rail · Air · Sea · Inland Waterway · Piped · Other

5.2 Physical form of waste

Gas · Liquid · Solid · Powder · Sludge · Mixed

5.3 Source of components (used for both hazardous properties and POPs)

NOT_PROVIDED · PROVIDED_WITH_WASTE · GUIDANCE · OWN_TESTING

5.4 Reason for no consignment code

NON_HAZ_WASTE_TRANSFER · NO_DOC_WITH_WASTE · HWRC_RECEIPT

5.5 Reason for no carrier registration number

ONSITE · HOUSEHOLD · ONE_OFF · MARINE

5.6 Weight units

Grams · Kilograms · Tonnes

5.7 Container types

Code	Meaning
BAG	Bag / Sack (e.g. rubble bag, refuse sack)
BAL	Bale
BOX	Box, Carton, Crate
CAN	Can / Jerrycan
CAR	Carrier (e.g. pallet cage)
CAS	Cask
CON	Container (unspecified)
DRU	Drum (typically 205L)
FIB	Fibre drum
IBC	Intermediate Bulk Container (e.g. 1000L)
LOO	Loose (no container)
PAL	Pallet (e.g. shrink-wrapped items)
ROR	Roll-on Roll-off container (RoRo)
SKI	Skip
TAN	Tanker / Tank
WBI	Wheelie Bin (any size)

5.8 Other reference lists (too long to print here)

These lists are long and best looked up in WasteBolt at the point of entry rather than memorised:

- EWC codes — the 6-digit European Waste Catalogue codes describing what the waste is.
- Hazardous property codes — format HP_1 to HP_15 (e.g. HP_1 = Explosive, HP_2 = Oxidising).
- Disposal and Recovery codes — the “D” and “R” codes from EU law (e.g. R1, D5).
- POP name codes — codes for specific persistent organic pollutants (e.g. PFHKS).

6. Site authorisation number formats (receiving site)

Only one authorisation number is needed per site — whichever permit/licence the site actually holds.

Nation	Example formats
England (EA)	EPR/XX9999XX, EPR/XX9999XX/D9999, EWL99999, WML999999
Scotland (SEPA)	PPC/A/9999999, WML/L/SEPA5999-9999, WML/W/9999999
Wales (NRW)	XY9999XX, EPR/XX9999XX
Northern Ireland	9999/99X, WPPC 99/99, WML 99/# LN/99/#

7. Quick “what do I put if it's missing?” cheat sheet

Missing thing	What to do
No hazardous consignment code	Enter a reason: NON_HAZ_WASTE_TRANSFER, NO_DOC_WITH_WASTE, or HWRC_RECEIPT
No carrier registration number	Enter a reason: ONSITE, HOUSEHOLD, ONE_OFF, or MARINE
No hazardous component breakdown	Fine if source = NOT_PROVIDED; a warning if PROVIDED_WITH_WASTE; blocked if GUIDANCE or OWN_TESTING
No POP component breakdown	Same rule as above, for POPs
Not travelling by road	Vehicle registration isn't needed
No weight recorded	Not allowed — weight (unit, amount, estimated y/n) is mandatory for every waste item
No disposal/recovery code	Not allowed — every waste item needs at least one D or R code

Source: Defra Digital Waste Tracking service (Public Beta) and the official Receipt of Waste data template.