

STANDARD: WRCS Gen 3.1

Waste & Resource Collection Services Standard

What's changed: WCS Gen 3.0 to WRCS Gen 3.1



Published 30 September 2026. This is a summary only; the full standard sets out all criteria and evidence requirements.

At a glance

The Waste Collection Services (WCS) standard has been revised and renamed the [Waste & Resource Collection Services \(WRCS\) standard](#).

The new name reflects a shift in focus: collection services are now treated as a key control point for resource recovery and the circular economy, not just a transport function. The emphasis moves from landfill diversion alone to the quality of recovery outcomes, accurate weight-based data, and transparency about where collected materials end up. The revision also strengthens the standard's national applicability, with Gen 3.1 updated to reflect requirements across Australian states and territories.

What's new

- **Wider scope (GN-1.1):** now covers 17 material streams, adding municipal solid waste, C&I waste, soft plastics, glass, metals, tyres, e-waste, batteries, textiles, furniture and paints. Construction & demolition waste is covered by a separate GECA standard.
- **Hazard and accident control (HA-1.1, HA-1.2, HA-2.1):** documented risk assessments, hot load and lithium battery procedures, fire suppression equipment in vehicles, emergency response and incident records for the past two years.
- **Environmental impacts (EV-7):** operational controls for air (idling, odour), water (stormwater, wash-down), internally generated waste, energy use, greenhouse gas emissions and noise, managed through your environmental management system (EMS).
- **Subcontractor control (EV-3.10):** documented arrangements and monitoring of subcontractors. The certified collection services provider remains accountable for their compliance.
- **Joint responsibility:** some criteria now explicitly share responsibility between the waste generator and collection service provider, particularly around site waste management plans, contamination prevention, actions arising from performance reviews, and the provision of operational performance data.

What's been strengthened

Area	What it means for you
Weight measurement (EV-3.5)	Providers must apply a new measurement hierarchy, in descending order of preference: • Tier 1: Measured weight, using National Measurement Institute (NMI) approved and verified equipment • Tier 2: Measured weight, using NMI approved and internally calibrated equipment • Tier 3: Measured weight, using non-NMI approved or verified and internally calibrated equipment. • Tier 4: Verified site-specific calculated weight • Tier 5: Documented estimated, attributed or nominal weight Providers report at the highest tier they can achieve, with a focus on improving over time. Where reasonably practicable, at least 95% of material should be measured with actual weights (Tiers 1 to 3). Estimated weights need a documented justification and a transition plan; cost alone is not a justification.
Data and reporting (EV-5)	Record the measurement tier and clearly separate actual from estimated weights. Internal management reviews at least monthly; stakeholder reporting at least quarterly.

What's been strengthened

Area	What it means for you
Downstream facilities (EV-4.1, EV-4.3)	Keep a register of downstream facilities with evidence they are lawfully authorised. Energy recovery and processed engineered fuel must be reported separately and are not counted as recycling.
Contamination (EV-3.8)	Monitor against defined thresholds, notify downstream facilities where contamination may affect them, and do not recombine separately collected streams.
Waste Management Plans (EV-3.2)	WMPs must include contamination thresholds, recovery pathways and site-specific KPIs, reviewed at least annually.
Training (HA-3.1)	Training at commencement, when procedures change and periodically, covering a broader range of topics.
Social criteria (HS-2)	Modern slavery grace periods reduced from 3 years to 1 year, with risk assessment of Tier 1 suppliers.
EMS and legislation (EV-1.1, EV-2.1)	The EMS must cover the new EV-7 impact areas. Compliance now references the Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020.

Where the standard is now more flexible

- **Performance reviews (EV-3.6):** at least annually (previously twice a year), but with more defined content.
- **Contamination notices (EV-3.8):** generators notified within a defined timeframe of no more than one calendar month (previously 24 hours).
- **Fit for purpose (GN-2.1):** an independent third-party report is no longer required.
- **Route planning (EV-3.4):** recognises that routes change day to day; evidence can come from dispatch, GPS or telematics records. Route efficiency procedures can be used to provide supporting evidence in dynamic route planning situations.
- **Export of waste and recovered materials for overseas processing (EV-4.2):** only applies to collection service providers if they undertake, contract or direct the export of waste and resources collected under the scope of certification for processing outside Australia.
- **Interstate transport (EV-4.4):** permitted with documented justification, provided it is not used to avoid higher waste levies (previously disposal within the state of generation).
- **Assessments and evidence:** annual assessments use a representative sample of sites; photo and video records are now supplementary; smaller operators may take a staged approach to best practice (EV-6.1).

Next steps

EXISTING LICENSEES

Review [the full Gen 3.1 standard](#), compare it with your current systems (particularly weight measurement, hazard control and EV-7).

PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS

Review [the full Gen 3.1 standard](#) and its Appendix A application checklist, then contact GECA to arrange a pre-application consultation.

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