



Technical Ruling

Waste

Version 1.5 — October 2022



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1 Introduction

1.1 General

This document is a **Ruling** that provides updates to *NABERS The Rules — Waste*, v1.3, 2021. This **Ruling** provides guidance for **Assessors** where such systems are present. This **Ruling** will supersede *NABERS Waste Rating — Technical Rulings*, v1.4, 2021.

1.2 Interpretation of the Rules and Rulings

This **Ruling** is to be read in conjunction with *NABERS Rules — Waste* as they apply to the specific building type.

Note: **Rulings** are used to address specific issues that may arise after the publication of the **Rules**.

Where a conflict between this **Ruling** and existing **Rules** is present, the requirements of the **Ruling** take precedence over the **Rules**.

This **Ruling** applies to any building type eligible for a NABERS rating using the NABERS energy rating tools.

1.3 Situations not covered by the Rules

Assessors must comply with this **Ruling** unless prior approval has been sought and approved by the **National Administrator**.


Where appropriate, **Assessors** may contact the **National Administrator** to propose an alternative methodology, outlining the circumstances and rationale. Prior approval for use is required and may be granted conditionally, on a case-by-case basis and at the **National Administrator's** discretion.

1.4 How to use this document

The term “**Ruling**” refers to a body of works produced by NABERS that specify what must be examined, tested and documented when an **Assessor** conducts a rating. Wherever the term is used in this document from Chapter 3 onwards, it refers to this document, *NABERS Ruling — Waste*. Other **Rules** documents mentioned in the text are distinguished from the present document by the inclusion of their title.

Text appearing **dark green** and **bold** is a defined term. Defined terms can be found in Chapter 2 of this **Ruling** or in the terms and definitions chapter of the respective **Rules** document.

The following formatting conventions may appear in this text:

 Important requirements and/or instructions are highlighted by an information callout box.

Note: Text appearing with a grey background is explanatory text only and is not to be read as part of the **Ruling**.

Example: Text appearing with a green background is intended to demonstrate a worked example of the respective **Rules** section or **Ruling** section.

1.5 What is new in this version

The following changes to *NABERS The Rules — Waste* content have been included in this current version:

- a) Chapter 3: Updates to waste types.
- b) Chapter 4: Updates to calculating recycling rates.
- c) Chapter 5: Updates to waste audit methods.
- d) Chapter 6: Updates to data quality.
- e) Appendix D: Updates to material recovery pathways.

1.6 Related documents

There are no documents referenced within this **Ruling**.

2 Terms and definitions

For key terms and their definitions that are integral to the proper use of this document refer to Appendix A of *NABERS The Rules — Waste*.

3 Chapter 3 Waste types

Table 3, General waste entry, delete the following:

Listed on the platform as	Description
Dry waste	Waste which will not rot, decay or disintegrate over time and has little or no moisture content, can also be described as inorganic or non-biodegradable waste. This waste stream is assumed to be recovered via PEF, so if it is not then this must be correctly allocated during the rating, as per section 4.4, and must also meet section 4.3.

and replace with the following:

Listed on the platform as	Description
Dry waste	<p>Waste which will not rot, decay or disintegrate over time and has little or no moisture content, can also be described as inorganic or non-biodegradable waste. This waste stream is assumed to be recovered via PEF, so if it is not then this must be correctly allocated during the rating, as per section 4.4, and must also meet section 4.3.</p> <p>To be able to record dry waste as a diversion stream on the NABERS Waste Platform and as part of a Waste Rating, the following is required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Evidence that the materials go through each stage of the supply chain until the point they are used as a replacement for a more carbon intensive fuel source (coal or natural gas). b) This evidence must be provided in the form of letter headed documents for each stage.

	<p>If the evidence compliant with the above two points cannot be sourced, the dry waste must be recorded as landfill during the rating process.</p>
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4 Chapter 4 Calculating the recycling rate

4.1 Section 4.1

After list entry '4) Waste consultant', add the following new paragraph:

The minimum requirement of 90 % of core waste streams does not include days on which waste is not collected. Therefore, if general waste is collected 4 times a week it is only counted as 4 not 5 or 7.

4.2 Section 4.2.2

After Section 4.2.1 list entry 'd) On-site organics treatment unit that is owned and operated by a third party, including the removal of any products of the unit.', add the following new section:

4.2.2 Floor by floor or tenant waste weighing process

In a property where the waste is weighed by floor or by tenant, the weights for each stream may be aggregated and then uploaded to the NABERS Waste Platform. The bin count will be the number of bins the waste contractor collects. For this density audit the total waste of a single day's aggregated waste can be applied across the number of bins being serviced for that day.

For the contamination audit and composition audit the process is the same as in section 5.9. The Assessor is to carry out the audit at point of pick-up once the cleaners have put the waste in the bins. The Assessor will still need to confirm two sources of bin count for the data verification.

4.3 Section 4.6.1

Replace Section 4.6.1 with the following:

4.6.1 Waste collected and measured in litres

When waste is being collected and measured in litres, through a calibrated system, such as cooking oil and pulped organic waste, a conversion factor of 1:1 can be applied to determine the weight of the waste in kilograms.

4.6.2 Mandatory actual weights

Bin densities for the following waste streams can vary substantially, so NABERS has determined that a density calculation method is outside an allowable error for a rating. If the following waste streams are reported for a NABERS rating, then actual weights are required. Density methods (Methods 2 and 3) cannot be used.

- a) Batteries.

- b) Coffee cups.
- c) Coffee pods.
- d) End of life products.
- e) e-waste.
- f) Food donation.
- g) Green waste.
- h) Hard waste.
- i) HDPE.
- j) Light globes and tubes (lamps).
- k) Mobile phones.
- l) Pallets.
- m) PET.
- n) Polypropylene.
- o) Printer cartridges.
- p) Scrap metal.

5 Chapter 5 Waste audit methods

5.1 Section 5.1

After fifth paragraph, add the following new paragraph:

To clarify whatever activities are carried out within the boundary of the property prior to the waste being picked up is acceptable and is considered part of the buildings waste management practices. This may include high levels of manual and automated sorting prior to collection.

5.2 Section 5.5.1

After Section 5.5.1 list entry 'd) Any other unusual operating day.', add the following:

Note: The audit exclusion periods does not impact the 120 days, e.g. if the Assessor were to carry out the audit in February, the January exclusion period does not get added to the 120 days.

5.3 Section 5.9

After 'Steps 6 to 7 can be performed off site.', add the following:

Note: Waste receptacles, such as steel front lift skid bins and skips, do not require weighing as a standard industry weight can be applied.

The contents still need to be weighed for both contamination and density audits. For waste in bags, the weight of the bag must be included as waste (and contamination if required).

If there is any uncertainty, the Assessor may contact the National Administrator for clarification.

6 Chapter 6 Data quality

After Section 6.3.3, add the following new section:

6.3.4 Description of an automatic bin weighing system

A cleaning contractor's tally or waste contractor's tally can be verified by using an automatic bin weighing system that includes the following:

- a) A system where the "bin service" is recognised when it is on the scale's platform through RFID, QR code, barcode or similar, and the weight excluding the tare and waste type is automatically transmitted to a computer system, or a cloud-based system.
- b) The system must not allow operators to manually enter weights or edit data.
- c) An annual validation of the system will be required in addition to the calibration of the scales.

If there is any uncertainty, the Assessor may contact the National Administrator for clarification.

7 Appendix D Material recovery pathways

Table 16.6, Food waste, Mixed food waste entry, delete the following:

Material type	Possible outcomes
Mixed food waste	<i>Anaerobic digestion</i> Composted Pre-treatment to sewer On-site dehydrator then applied to land On-site dehydrator then composted Stockfeed

and replace with the following:

Material type	Possible outcomes
Mixed food waste	<i>Anaerobic digestion</i> Composted Pre-treatment to sewer/trade waste — plant has anaerobic digestion Pre-treatment to sewer/trade waste — plant does not have anaerobic digestion On-site dehydrator then applied to land On-site dehydrator then composted Stockfeed

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