

INFOTECH SOLUTIONS

Defra Waste Tracking

Client Onboarding Requirements

Prepared by:	InfoTech Solutions
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1. Overview

This document sets out the information InfoTech Solutions requires from your business in order to onboard your site(s) onto the Defra Waste Tracking system. Please review each section carefully and provide the requested details so that waste movements can be recorded and submitted to Defra correctly.

Where defaults are stated (for example, physical form or container type), no action is required unless your operation differs from the default. In that case, the relevant waste type must be configured against the correct value before go-live.

2. Core Site Requirements

The following details are required for every site that will be receiving waste:

Requirement	Details
Defra API Code	An API code obtained via your Defra website registration. A separate API code is required for each site receiving waste.
EWC Codes	A valid set of European Waste Catalogue (EWC) codes must be configured against each waste type handled on site.
Hauliers	Each haulier must be set up with a valid waste carrier registration number (for example, CBDU999).
Waste Authorisation Number	Your site's waste authorisation reference, for example: PPC/A/99999999.
Site Address	The full physical address of the site receiving the waste.

3. Physical Form of Waste

The physical form of waste defaults to Solid. If any waste type needs to be recorded in a different form (for example, Liquid, Sludge or Gas), the waste type record must be updated with the correct physical form before submission.

4. Container Types

The container type defaults to LOOSE. If a different container is required, the waste type record must be configured against the appropriate value from the list below.

Bag	Bale	Box	Can
Carrier	Cask	Container	Drum
Fibre drum	IBC	Loose	Pallet
Roll on roll off	Skip	Tanker	Wheelie bin

5. Hazardous Waste

If your site receives hazardous waste, the following additional information is required:

Requirement	Details
HAZ Codes	A valid Hazard Property (HP) code must be supplied for each hazardous waste type, for example: HP_1, HP_3, HP_6.

6. Waste Containing POPs

Where waste contains Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the affected waste types must be flagged as containing POPs within the system so movements are reported correctly to Defra.

Requirement	Details
POPs Flag	Each relevant waste type must be marked as containing POPs.

7. Disposal or Recovery Code

Defra requires each site to declare the disposal or recovery operation it performs on waste it receives.

Requirement	Details
Recovery / Disposal Code	The recovery (R) or disposal (D) code applicable to your site, for example: R1.

8. Information Checklist

Please use the checklist below to confirm what you will be providing to InfoTech Solutions:

✓	Item	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defra API code(s) — one per receiving site	Required for every site.
<input type="checkbox"/>	EWC codes mapped to each waste type	Must be valid current codes.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Haulier carrier registration numbers	Format example: CBDU999.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Waste authorisation number	Format example: PPC/A/9999999.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Site address(es)	Full physical address per site.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-default physical forms (if any)	Default is Solid.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-default container types (if any)	Default is Loose.
<input type="checkbox"/>	HAZ codes (if handling hazardous waste)	For example: HP_1, HP_3, HP_6.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Waste types containing POPs (if any)	Flag required on each waste type.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Site disposal or recovery code	For example: R1.

9. Background & Next Steps

About the Defra Digital Waste Tracking Service

The Digital Waste Tracking (DWT) Service is a UK-wide platform developed by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), in partnership with the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in Northern Ireland. It replaces paper waste transfer notes and hazardous waste consignment notes with a single digital record of every waste movement, with the aim of reducing waste crime (estimated by Defra to cost the UK economy around £1 billion per year) and supporting the move to a circular economy.

Phase 1 of the rollout focuses on waste receiving sites. From October 2026, every site in England, Wales and Northern Ireland that holds a permit or licence to receive waste will be legally required to record details of every load it receives on the DWT service. Scotland's mandatory date follows in January 2027. Phase 2, covering waste carriers, brokers, dealers and exporters, is currently scheduled for October 2027.

Key Dates

Date	Milestone
Autumn 2025	Private beta — selected operators and software providers testing the Defra Receipt of Waste API.
28 April 2026	Public beta opens — all permitted and licensed receiving sites can register and submit data voluntarily.
October 2026	Mandatory go-live for permitted and licensed waste receivers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
January 2027	Mandatory go-live for Scotland.
October 2027	Phase 2 — mandate extends to carriers, brokers, dealers and exporters.

What Must Be Recorded For Each Movement

Defra has confirmed that the following information must be captured for every load of waste received:

- Waste classification — European Waste Catalogue (EWC) code and SIC code of the waste producer.
- A unique movement reference number for each load.
- Details of the dispatching party (producer or holder) and the receiving site.
- Haulier details, including waste carrier registration number.
- Physical form, container type, quantity and (where applicable) hazardous property codes.
- A flag identifying any waste containing Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).
- The treatment outcome and end destination, including the disposal (D) or recovery (R) code applied at site.

How Data Is Submitted

The DWT service is API-first. Defra's Receipt of Waste API is the primary route, designed so that existing waste management software can submit movement data directly to the central service. Defra also supports CSV uploads and a secure online portal for operators who cannot integrate, and has committed to providing alternative routes for digitally excluded users. Defra does not certify or mandate any specific commercial software; vendors integrate against the published API specification.

Charges and Enforcement

Defra has indicated a cost-recovery model for the service (industry reporting points to an annual service fee per site, with the final figure to be confirmed before mandatory go-live). From October 2026, paper waste transfer notes alone will not satisfy the legal requirement in England; the Environment Agency will begin active enforcement, with non-compliance potentially leading to fixed penalty notices, prosecution and permit consequences. Household waste collections and household waste recycling centres (HWRC) household deliveries remain out of scope; commercial waste received at HWRCs in England is in scope.

InfoTech Solutions Onboarding Steps

To prepare your site(s) for the October 2026 mandate, InfoTech Solutions recommends the following sequence:

- Step 1 — Register your organisation on the Defra Digital Waste Tracking Service and obtain an API code for each receiving site.
- Step 2 — Gather and return the information requested in Sections 2 to 7 of this document, using the checklist in Section 8.
- Step 3 — InfoTech Solutions will configure your waste types, container types, hauliers, hazardous and POPs flags, and disposal/recovery codes within our platform.
- Step 4 — Join the Defra public beta (open from 28 April 2026) and run end-to-end test submissions through our integration.
- Step 5 — Validate a representative sample of live waste movements against Defra's acceptance responses before switching to mandatory live reporting.
- Step 6 — From October 2026, all in-scope movements are submitted automatically through the Receipt of Waste API; CSV upload and portal entry remain available as fallbacks.

References

- GOV.UK — Digital waste tracking service (Defra policy paper).
- Defra Receipt of Waste API specification — published via the Defra waste tracking GitHub site.
- Environment Agency guidance on waste permits, EWC codes and hazardous waste consignment.

Document End

For any queries regarding this document or the Defra Digital Waste Tracking onboarding, please contact your InfoTech Solutions account manager.