

Risk Assessment Form: Collections on uphill terrain

REF: ES-Collections-RA15

For further info on risk assessment see: BHCC Risk Assessment Guidance

To calculate Risk Rating (R): assess the likelihood (L) of an accident occurring against the **most likely** impact (I) the accident might have, taking into account

Task / Activity Covered by the assessment	Movement and collection of wheelie bins located on uphill sloped terrain, where bins are stored at or near the top of a gradient			Likelihood (L)		X	Impact (I)	
				Almost Impossible		1	Insignificant (minor injury, no time off)	
Workplace	Across the city			Unlikely		2	Minor (non-permanent injury, up to 7 days off)	
Date of Assessment	29/01/2025	Date Assessment to be reviewed	29/01/2027	Possible		3	Moderate (injury causing more than 7 days off)	
Person Completing	██████████ / ██████████	Manager/ Head teacher	██████████	Likely		4	Major (death or serious injury)	
Staff involved in assessment	██████████			Almost Certain		5	Catastrophic (multiple deaths)	
				Low =1-3		Moderate = 4-7	Significant = 8-14	High = 15-25

What are the significant, foreseeable, hazards? (the dangers that can cause harm)		Who is at Risk?	Current control measures (What is already in place/done)	Risk Rating			What additional controls will be put in place to reduce the risk further?	Revised Risk Rating			Sign as done
				L	I	R		L	I	R	
1.	Slips, Trips & Falls - Operatives required to control wheelie bins on downhill gradients - Vision obscured by bin body while descending - Increased risk of slips at gradient transitions, uneven surfaces, wet/icy conditions	Staff (Loaders)	- Slip-resistant safety footwear - Dynamic risk assessment of surface conditions - Instruction to remain uphill of the bin - Controlled pace; no running - Suspension of work in icy or unsafe conditions - Operatives are to use designated paths only and not walk up/down banks and grass verges	4	3	12	Bins to be repositioned to nearest safe level point before collection where practicable	3	3	9	
2.	Musculoskeletal Injury (MSK) - Increased force required to restrain and control bin movement downhill - Eccentric loading on shoulders, arms, and lower back	Staff (Loaders)	- Manual handling training - Avoid lifting on steps - Instruction not to rush	4	3	12	- Downhill movement of full bins treated as high-risk manual handling activity - Limit on maximum bin weight for downhill movement (escalate if exceeded)	3	3	6	

	- Awkward postures when braking bin movement(Lifting/ 'bumping' bins up and down steps will involve awkward postures, twisting, and sudden force application) - Lifting/ 'bumping' bins up and down steps will involve awkward postures, twisting, and sudden force application						Manual Handling Refresher training every 2 years				
3.	Runaway / Uncontrolled Bin Movement - Gravity-assisted acceleration of bins on slopes - Increased risk in high winds, wet surfaces, or uneven ground - Risk of crush injuries to hands, feet, or legs	Staff (Loaders); Public	- Instruction to stay uphill of bin - Controlled pace - Avoid side-on movement - Do not chase runaway bins	3	3	9	Clear exclusion zone downhill during manoeuvre	2	2	4	
4.	Fatigue & Human Factors - Uphill storage means downhill + uphill return journeys - Repeated control effort increases physical and cognitive fatigue - Fatigue increases likelihood of shortcuts	Staff (Loaders)	- Task break - Hydration and weather-appropriate PPE - Realistic route timings - Supervisor support	2	3	6					
5.	Biological / Physical Hazards from Tipped Bins - Loss of control may cause bins to tip - Exposure to sharps, broken glass, bodily fluids	Staff (Loaders)	- Gloves mandatory (palm coated grip gloves - EN388:2016 2121) - Stop-task approach	3	3	9					
6.	Contact with Moving Vehicles Loaders are required to move wheelie bins from uphill storage locations down to level ground for collection. During downhill movement: - The wheelie bin body obstructs the loader's forward and peripheral vision - Loader's posture and need to control bin speed further reduce situational awareness Reduced visibility increases the likelihood of:	Staff (Loaders); Public	- High-visibility clothing worn at all times - Standard crew communication and awareness of vehicle position - Driver trained in safe vehicle operation around loaders	2	4	8	Where reasonably practicable, wheelie bins to be relocated from uphill storage positions to the bottom of the bank or nearest level, safe collection point, in order to: - Reduce downhill manual handling - Improve loader visibility during bin movement				

	- Stepping into the path of a moving refuse collection vehicle - Unintended proximity to vehicle blind spots - Misjudging vehicle position or movement during collection activities		- Instruction to maintain controlled pace and avoid rushing - Dynamic risk assessment by operatives prior to bin movement				Minimise the risk of inadvertent contact with vehicles				
7.	Noise Decant glass at the top of the hill into a service wheelie bin, and then manoeuvre the service bin downhill to the bottom of the bank in the same manner as other wheelie bins. - The act of decanting glass into a service bin generates high impact noise levels, which: - Can exceed 85 dB(A) and include higher peak levels - Are repeated multiple times during the round, increasing cumulative exposure - Extended task duration on uphill routes further increases overall noise exposure time.	Staff (Loaders)	Hearing protection (3M Earplugs) issued and required during glass collection activities	4	3	12	Glass decanting at the top of hills recognised as a high-noise task within the risk assessment				
8.	Increased Time on Task / Extended Exposure Wheelie bins stored on uphill terrain require: - Longer travel distances between bin storage and collection point - Repeated uphill and downhill movements Extended task duration increases: - Physical fatigue - Cognitive load and reduced situational awareness - Likelihood of rushing to recover lost time	Staff	- Instruction not to rush and to prioritise safety - Driver Supervisor support where delays occur	4	2	8	- Adjusted collection expectations for routes with significant gradients - Clear instruction that extended time due to safe handling is acceptable and not to be recovered by rushing - Where reasonably practicable, relocate bins to bottom of bank or nearest safe level point to reduce travel distance and task duration	3	2	6	
9.	Adverse Weather Conditions: including rain, ice, snow, and high winds, can significantly increase risks associated with collections on uphill terrain by:	Staff (Loaders)	Dynamic risk assessment of surface and weather conditions prior to and during the task	3	3	9	Uphill terrain routes recognised as higher risk during adverse weather and				

	▪ Reducing traction on sloped surfaces, increasing the likelihood of slips and falls ▪ Increasing the risk of loss of control of wheelie bins on gradients ▪ Further impairing visibility during downhill bin movement ▪ Increasing the physical effort required to control bins, accelerating fatigue, and increasing the risk of the collection vehicle losing traction on the slope. ▪ Reduced vehicle traction on inclines, increasing the risk of the collection vehicle losing grip, skidding, or being unable to brake effectively.		▪ Instruction to suspend work on slopes and gradients where conditions are icy, flooded, or otherwise unsafe ▪ Weather-appropriate PPE issued (e.g. waterproofs, thermal clothing)				subject to enhanced dynamic risk assessment ▪ Adverse weather risks are covered in more detail within the separate “Adverse Weather Working” Risk Assessment. (ES-Collections-RA-010)				
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