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**Waste collection and transportation  
management — Vocabulary**

*Gestion de la collecte et du transport des déchets — Terminologie*

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 297, *Waste collection and transportation management*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

### 0.1 General

With global waste generation on the rise, municipalities must consider more efficient waste collection and transportation management, including the interoperability and safe use of equipment or technologies.

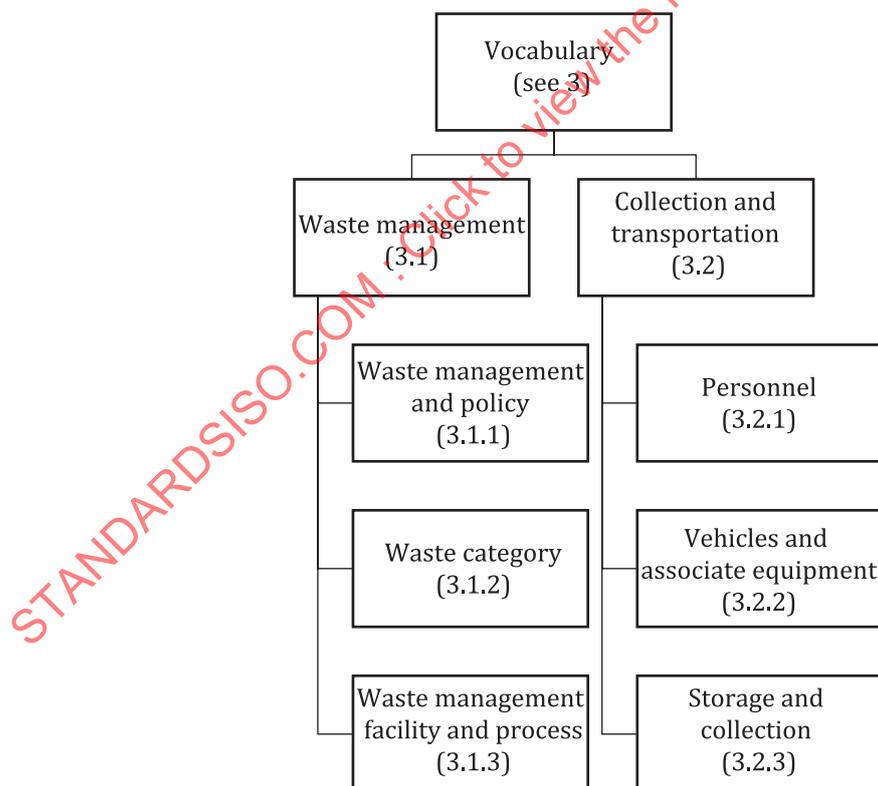
Hence, it is important to agree on a set of harmonized terms and definitions to provide a common basis for communication and information exchange on waste collection and transportation management. This will help to minimize ambiguity, confusion and misunderstanding of terms used in the waste management industry.

This document enables users to understand the scope of the work of ISO/TC 297 and is the source document for the terms and definitions of ISO/TC 297. Where a term and definition are required in a single document, the term and definition will be referenced in that document.

These terms and definitions will serve as the basis for a common language for regulations, standards, academia, research and training in the waste management industry.

### 0.2 Vocabulary structure

The arrangement of terms and definitions in this document is based upon terms corresponding to “waste management” and “collection and transportation” in the waste collection and transportation management field. The organization of terms is illustrated in [Figure 1](#).



**Figure 1 — Vocabulary structure**

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# Waste collection and transportation management — Vocabulary

## 1 Scope

This document defines terms that are commonly used in the area of waste collection and transportation management. It aims to align with terminology used internationally.

## 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

## 3 Terms and definitions

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

NOTE 'Refuse' and 'waste' are used interchangeably in this document.

### 3.1 Waste management

#### 3.1.1 Waste management and policy

##### 3.1.1.1

##### 3Rs

##### **reduce, reuse, recycle**

three main principles which are widely used in *waste management* (3.1.1.9)

Note 1 to entry: *Reduce, reuse* and *recycling* are defined in 3.1.1.6, 3.1.1.8 and 3.1.3.10, respectively.

##### 3.1.1.2

##### **extended producer responsibility**

##### EPR

environmental policy approach in which a producer's responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product's life cycle

Note 1 to entry: An EPR policy is characterized by:

- a) the shifting of responsibility (physically and/or economically; fully or partially) upstream towards the producer and away from government or municipalities;
- b) the provision of incentives to producers to take into account environmental considerations when designing their products.

Note 2 to entry: An EPR can be only financial or can be financial and operational depending on national laws.

##### 3.1.1.3

##### **illegal dumping**

*disposal* (3.1.3.3) of *waste* (3.1.2.31) without legal permission, in violation of national laws

**3.1.1.4**

**integrated waste management**

well-planned and connected services, including waste collection, storage, *recycling* (3.1.3.10), transfer, treatment and *disposal* (3.1.3.3) activities, resulting in a cost-effective, efficient, functional and environmentally sound waste management system

**3.1.1.5**

**pay-as-you-throw**

PAYT

usage-based pricing system for *waste* (3.1.2.31) whereby residents pay a variable waste fee based on the quantity of waste handled

**3.1.1.6**

**reduce**

minimize the amount of *waste* (3.1.2.31) produced at source so as to minimize the quantity of waste that needs to be treated or disposed of

Note 1 to entry: Reduction can also include no unnecessary consumption and the use of products that are sustainably designed with less material used.

**3.1.1.7**

**refurbished part**

part that is disassembled from waste products or equipment and can be recycled or prepared for *reuse* (3.1.1.8) after inspection, detection and simple treatment

**3.1.1.8**

**reuse**

use an object or material again, either for its original or similar purpose, without significantly altering the physical form of the object or material

**3.1.1.9**

**waste management**

management of generation, collection, storage, transport, *recycling* (3.1.3.10), recovery and *disposal* (3.1.3.3) of *waste* (3.1.2.31)

Note 1 to entry: Most nations have legislative and regulatory frameworks for waste management. These can differ from nation to nation.

**3.1.1.10**

**waste odour**

unpleasant smell caused by *waste* (3.1.2.31) during the whole process of waste collection, transportation and *disposal* (3.1.3.3)

**3.1.2 Waste category**

**3.1.2.1**

**agricultural waste**

*waste* (3.1.2.31) produced as a result of various agricultural operations

[SOURCE: *OECD Glossary of Statistical Terms*<sup>[6]</sup>, modified — Definition revised.]

**3.1.2.2**

**biomass**

material that is derived from living or recently living biological organisms, excluding material embedded in geological formations and/or fossilized

Note 1 to entry: Biomass can be used directly or processed as a fuel source or fertiliser.

**3.1.2.3****bulky waste**

waste (3.1.2.31) which, because of its size or unwieldiness, does not fit into local waste *containers* (3.2.3.5), waste bags or household *refuse chutes* (3.2.3.9) and is provided separately for collection

**3.1.2.4****construction and demolition waste**

C&D waste

waste (3.1.2.31) which arises from construction, renovation or demolition activities

**3.1.2.5****e-waste**

electrical or electronic equipment which is waste (3.1.2.31), including all components, sub-assemblies and consumables which are part of the product at the time of discarding

Note 1 to entry: Electrical and electronic products include TVs, computers, laptops, handphones, printers, printed circuit boards, refrigerators, washing machines and audio and video systems.

Note 2 to entry: E-waste contains valuable resources and certain toxic substances.

**3.1.2.6****ferrous scrap metals**

different alloys containing mainly iron and minor parts of other metals

Note 1 to entry: Ferrous scrap metals can be removed from commingled materials using large magnets.

**3.1.2.7****food waste**

food that is discarded along the food chain

Note 1 to entry: The food waste that is generated along the food chain from production, distribution, retail and consumption.

**3.1.2.8****general waste**

waste (3.1.2.31) as defined by national laws

**3.1.2.9****glass waste**

waste (3.1.2.31) from hard, brittle substances, typically transparent or translucent

Note 1 to entry: Glass is made by fusing sand with soda and lime and cooling rapidly.

EXAMPLE Windows, drinking containers.

**3.1.2.10****hazardous waste**

waste (3.1.2.31) which can have an adverse impact on human health and safety and/or the environment and requires special treatment and *disposal* (3.1.3.3)

Note 1 to entry: (i) Waste prescribed in accordance with national laws, where the waste has any of the characteristics mentioned in Annex III to the Basel Convention; or (ii) waste that belongs to any category contained in Annex I to the Basel Convention, unless it does not possess any of the characteristics contained in Annex III to the Basel Convention.

[SOURCE: SS 603:2021, 3.3, modified — Note 1 to entry replaced.]

**3.1.2.11****horticultural waste**

garden waste

tree trunks and branches, plant parts and trimmings generated during the maintenance and pruning of trees and plants

**3.1.2.12**

**household waste**

waste (3.1.2.31) arising from household

Note 1 to entry: This definition specifies where the waste stream is generated but not its characteristics.

**3.1.2.13**

**incinerable waste**

waste (3.1.2.31) that can be destroyed, rendered inert or reduced to ash through a process of controlled, high-temperature combustion

**3.1.2.14**

**incineration bottom ash**

residue of combustion from a furnace or incinerator which comprises mainly silica, ceramic and glass, while containing some ferrous and non-ferrous metals and residual unburnt carbon

Note 1 to entry: Fluidized bed system does not produce bottom ash.

**3.1.2.15**

**incineration fly ash**

fine ash generated from an *incineration* (3.1.3.6) process, carried by the combustion gases and collected by a flue gas cleaning system

Note 1 to entry: Fine ash or air pollution control (APC) residue mainly comprises lime hydrate and activated carbon, which are used for flue gas treatment. It also contains carbon and metal oxides.

**3.1.2.16**

**industrial sludge**

mixture of water and solids separated using various types of industrial process, excluding sewage sludge

**3.1.2.17**

**industrial waste**

solid, liquid or gaseous waste (3.1.2.31) produced in the course of, or waste product of, any trade, business, manufacture, construction or other industrial activity, which can include toxic materials and dangerous substances

Note 1 to entry: The legal definition can differ according to national laws.

**3.1.2.18**

**litter**

waste (3.1.2.31) of a smaller size that is discarded improperly by an individual in a public environment

**3.1.2.19**

**manufacturing waste**

waste (3.1.2.31) generated during the various stages of product manufacturing

**3.1.2.20**

**municipal sewage sludge**

dewatered semi-solid material produced by municipal wastewater treatment plant processes

**3.1.2.21**

**municipal solid waste**

MSW

waste (3.1.2.31) from households, offices, hotels, malls, trade premises, schools, institutions, food and beverage premises, markets and municipal services, such as street cleaning and maintenance of recreational areas, which municipalities take care of

Note 1 to entry: The legal definition can differ according to national laws.

**3.1.2.22****non-incinerable waste**

waste (3.1.2.31) which is not incinerable

**3.1.2.23****non-ferrous metals**

non-magnetic metals

EXAMPLE Aluminium, lead, copper and alloys.

**3.1.2.24****organic waste**

biological waste (3.1.2.31) from plants or animals

**3.1.2.25****packaging waste**

waste (3.1.2.31) from all products made of any materials of any nature to be used for the containment, protection, handling, delivery and presentation of goods, from raw materials to processed goods, from the producer to the user or the consumer

**3.1.2.26****paper waste**

discarded paper products

EXAMPLE Mixed paper, white paper, newspaper, cardboard.

**3.1.2.27****pathogenic waste**

medical or infectious waste

waste (3.1.2.31) that is capable of causing or spreading disease

Note 1 to entry: It includes sharps (i.e. sharp objects, such as discarded needles), microbiological cultures, pathological organs, bedding, bandages and other waste from potentially infectious patients and animals. Such waste typically originates from medical treatments.

Note 2 to entry: The legal definition can differ according to national laws.

**3.1.2.28****plastic waste**

discarded material which contains as an essential ingredient a high polymer

Note 1 to entry: Plastic waste can be recycled via mechanical recycling, chemical recycling and organic recycling and for energy recovery.

[SOURCE: ISO 472:2013, 2.702, modified — Definition changed and notes to entry replaced.]

**3.1.2.29****post-consumer waste**

finished product which has served its intended purpose and has been discarded (end-of-life) by the end user for disposal (3.1.3.3) and/or recovery

**3.1.2.30****recyclable**

waste (3.1.2.31) that can be recovered and processed into material for the manufacture of a new product

**3.1.2.31**

**waste  
refuse**

substances or objects which are discarded, are intended to be discarded or are required to be discarded in accordance with national laws

Note 1 to entry: Waste is a potential resource or commodity that could be turned into a useful product, recycled or recovered.

[SOURCE: Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal,<sup>[6]</sup> modified — Definition revised and note to entry added.]

**3.1.2.32**

**waste tyres**

tyres that are no longer capable of being used for their original purpose

**3.1.2.33**

**wood waste**

waste (3.1.2.31) from discarded products and materials made of wood, including pallets, crates, boxes, furniture and planks

**3.1.3 Waste management facility and process**

**3.1.3.1**

**baling**

process of binding or wrapping of compressed or non-compressed material into a form suitable for easy handling, storage and transport

**3.1.3.2**

**compacting**

process to reduce the volume of solid waste (3.1.2.31)

Note 1 to entry: Can be done by mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic or electrical means.

**3.1.3.3**

**disposal**

putting waste (3.1.2.31) in an appropriate facility without the intention of recovery

EXAMPLE Incineration, final disposal (e.g. landfill).

Note 1 to entry: The legal definition can differ according to national laws.

Note 2 to entry: Within the European Waste Frame Directives, disposal means any operation which is not recovery, even when the operation has as a secondary consequence the reclamation of substances or energy. Landfilling is disposal; waste incineration is only disposal if it does not comply with a minimum efficiency level regarding the recovery of energy.

[SOURCE: IAEA Safety Glossary 2018,<sup>[7]</sup> modified — Definition revised, examples added and notes to entry replaced.]

**3.1.3.4**

**disposal facility**

special unit that is permitted to store waste (3.1.2.31)

Note 1 to entry: The legal definition can differ according to national laws.

**3.1.3.5**

**energy recovery**

waste-to-energy

process of treating waste products by thermal, chemical or biological processes to recover energy or products for energy production

**3.1.3.6****incineration**

thermal destruction of waste by a process of controlled high-temperature combustion with or without *energy recovery* (3.1.3.5)

Note 1 to entry: Residues generated from incineration include incineration bottom ash and fly ash.

**3.1.3.7****landfill**

*waste* (3.1.2.31) *disposal facility* (3.1.3.4) used for the controlled *disposal* (3.1.3.3) of waste

Note 1 to entry: The term 'controlled' means legal disposal in accordance with national laws.

**3.1.3.8****material recovery**

separating and processing waste to obtain materials that can be reused or recycled

**3.1.3.9****material recovery facility**

MRF

plant for sorting and pre-processing materials from commingled waste for resource recovery

**3.1.3.10****recycling**

process of transforming waste materials into a reusable form which can be similar to the original product or not

**3.1.3.11****recycling facility**

facility used for the sorting, segregation, processing or treatment of *waste* (3.1.2.31) or any other material or thing for the primary purpose of *recycling* (3.1.3.10) or preparation for *reuse* (3.1.1.8)

**3.1.3.12****remanufacturing**

process of creating a like-new product through dismantling, cleaning, salvaging and replacing worn components before reassembling and testing

Note 1 to entry: The quality of this product should be equal to or better than the original.

**3.1.3.13****separation at source**

physical sorting of waste into its components at the point of generation as a preparation for separate collection

**3.1.3.14****shredding**

mechanical reduction of waste size by tearing, cutting or other means

**3.1.3.15****transfer station**

facility for transfer of *waste* (3.1.2.31) that can include the temporary storage of waste prior to transportation for final *disposal* (3.1.3.3) or further treatment

Note 1 to entry: Transfer stations can be equipped with functions such as volume reduction (compression) and transshipment by vehicles.

**3.1.3.16****volume reduction**

process or operation to decrease the space occupied by materials

**3.1.3.17**

**waste collection and transportation**

process of picking up and transporting waste from where it is generated to a *waste treatment* (3.1.3.19), transfer, *recycling* (3.1.3.10) or *disposal facility* (3.1.3.4) via various modes of transport

Note 1 to entry: Waste collection and transportation can also include the use of pipelines and chute systems.

**3.1.3.18**

**waste-to-energy plant**

incineration plant

plant in which *waste* (3.1.2.31) is thermally treated and the volume of waste is decreased, with or without recovery of the combustion heat generated

Note 1 to entry: Methods of treatment include incineration by oxidation of waste and/or other thermal treatment processes, such as pyrolysis, gasification and plasma processes.

**3.1.3.19**

**waste treatment**

single step or a combination of multiple steps in which waste is handled via mechanical, chemical, thermal or biological processes with the aim of recovering material or energetic value and/or reducing the volume and environmental impact of the waste

**3.1.3.20**

**waste treatment facility**

licensed plant in which *waste* (3.1.2.31) is treated in accordance with the local laws

**3.2 Collection and transportation**

**3.2.1 Personnel**

**3.2.1.1**

**collection crew**

collection operator

trained personnel assigned to a *refuse collection vehicle* (3.2.2.6) to carry out waste collection

Note 1 to entry: The refuse collection vehicle driver can be a collection crew member in a one-person operation system.

**3.2.1.2**

**informal recycler**

rag and bone man

unlicensed individual collecting *recyclables* (3.1.2.30) and second-hand goods for *reuse* (3.1.1.8) or *recycling* (3.1.3.10)

**3.2.1.3**

**waste collector**

authorised person or company collecting and transporting *waste* (3.1.2.31) from a certain area to a *disposal facility* (3.1.3.4)

**3.2.1.4**

**public waste collector**

PWC

licensee for the provision of waste collection services to designated premises in the geographical public waste collection sector

**3.2.1.5**

**hazardous waste collector**

licensed person authorised to collect any *hazardous waste* (3.1.2.10) and/or toxic waste for storage, reprocessing, usage, treatment, transport or *disposal* (3.1.3.3)

**3.2.1.6****waste generator**

person or organisation which produces waste from their own activities

**3.2.2 Vehicles and associate equipment****3.2.2.1****fleet management system**

integrated digital system that is mainly used to track, monitor and manage fleets

**3.2.2.2****front loader**

waste collection truck which loads waste from the front

Note 1 to entry: In front-loaded refuse collection vehicles, refuse is transferred manually or mechanically from the front over the rake rail into a hopper. A compaction mechanism, if fitted, then transfers and compacts the refuse from the hopper into a fixed or interchangeable body of the front-loaded refuse collection vehicle. To discharge, either the body is tilted or rotated or an ejection device is used.

Note 2 to entry: In front-loaded refuse collection vehicles, the container can be a fixed part of the body which is lifted or rotated for emptying or which has an emptying device (e.g. an exchange plate). The bodywork can include a compaction mechanism to compress the material.

**3.2.2.3****hooklift loader**

truck fitted with hooklift to take on or off and carry a roll-on, roll-off *container* (3.2.3.5) or compactor

**3.2.2.4****onboard weighing system**

load-weighing system that is integrated into the *refuse collection vehicle* (3.2.2.6) or *container* (3.2.3.5) to provide information on the quantity of waste collected

**3.2.2.5****rear-end loader**

REL

waste collection truck designed with an opening at the rear for the collection of *waste* (3.1.2.31)

Note 1 to entry: In rear-loaded refuse collection vehicles, refuse is transferred manually or mechanically from the rear rake rail into a hopper or body. A compaction mechanism, if fitted, then transfers and compacts the refuse from the hopper into a fixed or interchangeable body of the rear-loaded refuse collection vehicle.

Note 2 to entry: As an optional feature, such trucks can be fitted with a fully enclosed tailgate cover at the back of the rear-end loader to mitigate odour and prevent accidental spillage during transportation.

Note 3 to entry: In rear-loaded refuse collection vehicles, the container can be a fixed part of the body which is lifted or rotated for emptying or which has an emptying device (e.g. an exchange plate). The bodywork can include a compaction mechanism to compress the material.

**3.2.2.6****refuse collection vehicle**

RCV

purpose-built vehicle for the collection and transport of *waste* (3.1.2.31), whereby the refuse is transferred by differential air pressure, a lifting device, mechanical means or hand

Note 1 to entry: Refuse collection vehicles generally consist of a chassis or rigid chassis onto which a bodywork is mounted. They can also be a truck and trailer combination.

Note 2 to entry: Refuse collection vehicles can be fitted with leachate tanks, usually below the body, to contain leachate for spillage control during transportation. They can also be fitted with internet of things (IoT) or smart solutions as part of an integrated waste management system.

Note 3 to entry: Waste that is collected via refuse collection vehicles is sent for further processing to a recycling facility or material recovery facility, or to be disposed of at incineration plants or landfill.

[SOURCE: EN 1501-1:2021, 3.1, modified — Notes to entry added.]

### 3.2.2.7

#### **side loader**

waste collection truck into which waste is loaded from the sides

Note 1 to entry: In side-loaded refuse collection vehicles, refuse is transferred manually or mechanically from the side over the rave rail into a hopper. A compaction mechanism, if fitted, then transfers and compacts the refuse from the hopper into a fixed or interchangeable body of the side-loaded refuse collection vehicle. To discharge, either the body is tilted or rotated or an ejection device is used.

Note 2 to entry: In side-loaded refuse collection vehicles, the container can be a fixed part of the body which is lifted for emptying or which has an emptying device (e.g. an exchange plate). The bodywork can include a compaction mechanism to compress the material.

### 3.2.2.8

#### **tanker truck**

waste collection truck used for the collection of sewage, sludge and other non-solid waste

### 3.2.2.9

#### **tarp system**

mechanised covering system mounted on a hooklift truck for the covering or uncovering of an *open-top container* ([3.2.3.13](#))

### 3.2.2.10

#### **top loader**

waste collection truck into which *waste* ([3.1.2.31](#)) is loaded from the top

### 3.2.2.11

#### **truck with loader crane**

waste collection truck fitted with a loader crane that can pick up a top-lifted stationary container in more than one direction

## 3.2.3 Storage and collection

### 3.2.3.1

#### **bin centre**

centralised storage point for *waste* ([3.1.2.31](#)) collected in bins from residential, commercial and mixed developments

### 3.2.3.2

#### **centralised chute for refuse**

designed chute installed in the common area of high-rise apartments with openings fitted on each floor for residents to deposit *refuse* ([3.1.2.31](#))

### 3.2.3.3

#### **closed-top container**

CTC

roll-on, roll-off *container* ([3.2.3.5](#)) with a cover and without a compaction function, which is loaded and unloaded by a hooklift truck

### 3.2.3.4

#### **collection management system**

integrated system that is mainly used to plan, organize, implement and control the process of sorting, transferring and gathering waste, *recyclables* ([3.1.2.30](#)) or recovered materials from where they are generated

Note 1 to entry: The collection management system can be a digital system.

### 3.2.3.5 container

bin

vessel or receptacle used for the temporary holding of *waste* (3.1.2.31)

Note 1 to entry: Containers can be fitted with internet of things (IoT) and/or smart solutions as part of an integrated waste management system.

### 3.2.3.6 direct refuse collection

collection of refuse directly from individual premises, door-to-door, and not through a refuse *bin centre* (3.2.3.1) or refuse bin compartment

### 3.2.3.7 drop-off centre

place where materials or goods can be taken for temporary storage, resource recovery or professional separation

### 3.2.3.8 indirect refuse collection

collection of refuse from *waste generators* (3.2.1.6) who share common waste storage equipment and *waste collection points* (3.2.3.19)

Note 1 to entry: Indirect refuse collection includes collection from bin centres and on-demand collection and take-back systems.

EXAMPLE Collection of refuse through a refuse bin centre, a refuse bin compartment, by express on demand, at stores, by exchanging old goods for new ones.

### 3.2.3.9 individual refuse chute

refuse chute

*waste* (3.1.2.31) *disposal* (3.1.3.3) point in a residential unit or on a floor of a building, which is connected to a vertical chute leading down to a common *waste collection point* (3.2.3.19)

### 3.2.3.10 litter bin

*container* (3.2.3.5) designed in a reduced size for the temporary holding of *waste* (3.1.2.31) in public areas

### 3.2.3.11 mobile compactor

roll-on, roll-off *container* (3.2.3.5) with compaction function

### 3.2.3.12 mobile waste and recycling container

mobile garbage bin

*container* (3.2.3.5) or bin with a hinged lid and two or four fitted wheels, which is intended to be picked up by a lifting device attached to a *refuse collection vehicle* (3.2.2.6)

### 3.2.3.13 open-top container

OTC

roll-on, roll-off *container* (3.2.3.5) without a cover or a compaction function, which is loaded and unloaded by a hooklift truck

Note 1 to entry: Open-top containers can function as commingled recycling bins used for the storage of mixed dry recyclable materials prior to collection, as opposed to segregated recycling bins.