



Volumetric Surveys

FACT SHEET

This Fact Sheet summarises general requirements for the conduct of a volumetric survey for a landfill facility, provides guidance for surveyors conducting volumetric surveys, and gives general advice as to how the information will be used by NRE Tas when reconciling the annual volume of airspace consumed against the annual tonnage of waste that has been reported.

Summary of requirements

S.36 of the [Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022](#) (the Act) and S.10 of the [Waste and Resource Recovery Regulations 2022](#) (the Regulations) set out requirements for the conduct of a volumetric survey (a survey) for a landfill facility (a facility), as defined under S.4 of the Act.

Key procedural requirements are summarised as follows:

- The operator of a facility is required to carry out an annual survey, at the expense of the facility operator.
- If the facility is part of a combined waste facility (landfill and resource recovery combined), the survey is to be carried out in respect of the whole facility.
- An initial baseline survey was required to be carried out within 28 days after the Act commencement (1 July 2022), if the facility was operational on the commencement day.
- If a facility was not in operation on the commencement day, a survey must be carried out prior to commencing operation.
- A survey must be carried out on completion of, and prior to commencing use of, each landfill cell.
- A survey must be carried out within one year after the day of the initial baseline survey, and annually after that day. For simplicity we request that all surveys are carried out in July of each year.
- Surveys are to be carried out by a person registered as a surveyor under the [Surveyors Act 2002](#), who is independent of the facility. Refer to the [Surveyors Register](#) for a list of persons currently registered as surveyors in Tasmania.
- The Survey Report is to be submitted to NRE Tas within 30 days of the completion of the survey (email to wastelevy@nre.tas.gov.au).

Guidance for surveyors

The primary purpose of undertaking an annual survey is to determine:

- 1.1 whether all waste deposited over the preceding 12 months has been deposited within the authorised filling area (including maximum height restrictions);
- 1.2 the volume of airspace consumed in each active cell in the preceding 12 months;
- 1.3 the volume of airspace remaining in each active cell approved for filling; and
- 1.4 the changes in volume for stockpiles of waste (awaiting disposal, recycling, or processing) and operational materials, in the preceding 12 months.

The **authorised filling area** means the area where waste can be lawfully deposited into, or onto, land.

The **Survey Report** for the activity must include:

- 2.1 the information determined under 1.1 to 1.4 above;
- 2.2 a topographical depiction of the landfilling footprint detailing each active cell approved for filling and each active stockpile (both waste and non-waste);
- 2.3 the location of all waste deposited over the preceding 12 months in relation to each active approved cell; and
- 2.4 the height of waste deposition in each cell approved for filling at the time of the survey.

Note: The EPA has advised NRE Tas that requirements in relation to an annual volumetric survey will be included in any new, or varied, Level 2 waste depot permits. The above guidance has been developed by NRE Tas in consultation with the EPA. The requirements set out at 1.3 and 2.4 are likely to be more relevant to EPA than NRE Tas. Under S.53 of the Act, the EPA may request copies of Survey Reports from NRE Tas, or they may obtain copies directly from the operators of facilities.

Survey follow up

Following receipt of the Survey Report, NRE Tas will engage with the operator of the facility to reconcile the annual volume of airspace consumed in the preceding 12 months, against the annual tonnage of waste reported to NRE Tas as having been deposited.

Depending upon the facility, this may require adjustments to be made for:

- any non-waste materials utilised in the authorised filling area for operational purposes in the preceding 12 months (e.g., gravel used for roading, or clay used for intermittent or daily cover);
- any waste materials removed from the authorised filling area in the preceding 12 months (for which a rebate may have been claimed on a monthly return); and
- the in-situ density factors used by facilities for waste and non-waste materials (tonnes/m³).

When reconciling volumes with tonnes it may also be necessary for NRE Tas to request the operators of facilities to provide additional landfill movement record information for part months where the survey dates do not exactly align with waste reporting months. The authority for NRE Tas to request this information is afforded under Regulation 12(3).

Further information

Further information about volumetric survey requirements can be obtained by contacting the NRE Tas Waste Levy and Data Team on wastelevy@nre.tas.gov.au.

