New requirements for weighbridges

Who must install a weighbridge?
If your facility recovers, recycles, processes or stores waste and is liable for the waste levy, you are required to install a weighbridge by 1 February 2016 to accurately record waste movements.

Who must use the weighbridge at my facility?
All vehicles that carry waste in or out of a waste facility must enter the facility via the weighbridge. You must record specific details for each vehicle entry and exit. This includes but is not limited to the amount of waste (in tonnes), the type of waste, the delivery vehicle registration number, the date the waste was delivered, and where the waste was placed on-site.

What are the operating protocols for the weighbridge?
You must implement traffic and security protocols in and around your weighbridge to ensure that access is authorised and that incoming and outgoing vehicles carrying waste are accurately recorded.

In addition, at least once a year you must verify your weighbridge as per the Commonwealth National Measurement Act 1960 to ensure its accuracy and reliability.

What steps should I take before installing a weighbridge?
Development or building approvals might be necessary to install a weighbridge at your facility. You should seek any necessary local council or NSW Planning approval before installing one. The EPA is notifying planning authorities about our requirements for weighbridge installation at waste facilities.

About the EPA
The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) manages environmental issues, responds to pollution incidents, and enforces environmental regulations. We also issue environment protection licences.

What about recording and reporting software?
When operators install a weighbridge at their facility, they also typically purchase a related software system for recording and reporting. The choice of software is your own, as long as you fulfil the EPA’s recording and reporting requirements. Recording and reporting is a separate regulatory requirement from installing a weighbridge.

It is essential to commission this software successfully to accurately record and report waste information. If you have an existing weighbridge, your current record-keeping systems may also need to be upgraded.

Over the coming months, the EPA will communicate the recording and reporting requirements for facilities that become liable for the levy on 1 August 2015.

Is financial assistance available?
Your facility may be eligible for up to $75,000 from the NSW Government to cover the costs of installing a new weighbridge. The EPA will be running a grant program in 2015. Check our website for upcoming grant information.

More information
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www.epa.nsw.gov.au/wastechanges

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