



National Federation of Demolition Contractors  
**Voice of the Global Demolition Industry**

## TOOLBOX TALKS 21 - 40 **GUIDANCE NOTES**



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## Loading Metal Waste Into Skips with Mechanical Plant

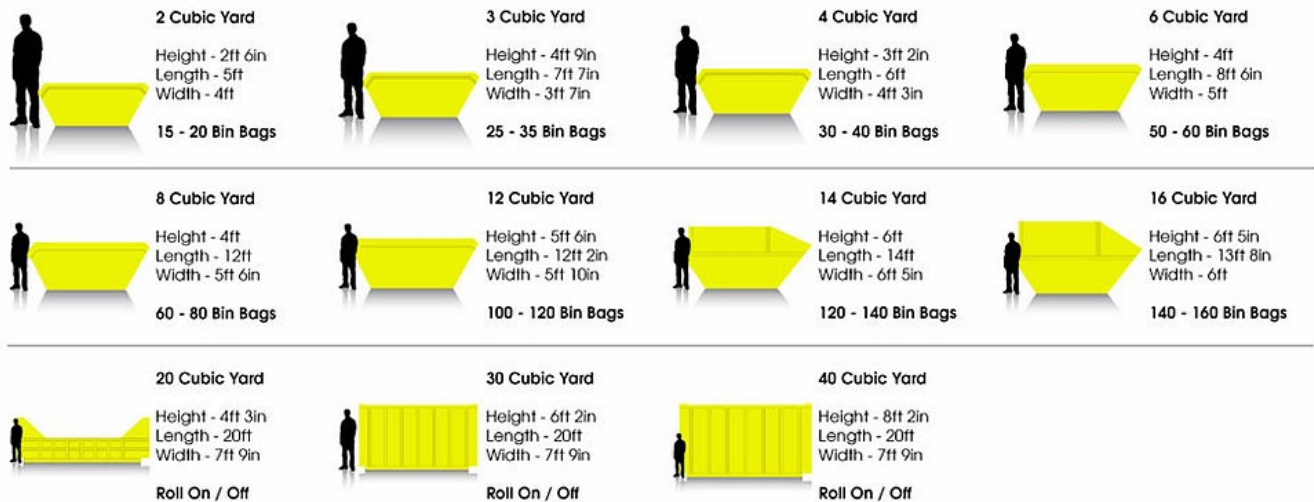
### **Preparation**

- Processing of metal waste and the loading of skips should only be undertaken by those authorised and instructed to do so.
- The activity must only be undertaken in a predetermined and agreed area(s).
- Prior to commencing processing / loading, you must ensure you are fully familiar with any local controls specified within the site RAMS and that these controls are in place.
- These controls shall include the below as a minimum:
  - Establish a means of physical exclusion zone with appropriate barriers.
  - All pedestrians must be completely excluded from the area.
  - Plant marshals should be appointed to enforce exclusion area(s) if deemed necessary.
  - Processed material shall be reduced to a size in line with the appropriate sized skip without the need to be further compressed once the material is placed within it.
  - The application of any pressure to steel by an excavator/attachment within a skip is prohibited.
  - Consider the full 360 slew radius of the machine for the minimum size of the exclusion zone if allowable.
- **Selection of an appropriate attachment**
  - Preferred attachment in all scenarios is the hydraulic processor (i.e. a pulveriser).



- Grapple can be considered for lightweight materials.
- Bucket is a last resort and is only suitable for infrequent use.

- The machine should be suitably sized for the operation. Ensure it is not too small for the size of skip being loaded.



- Selection of an appropriate attachment**
  - Supervisors must ensure the operator is competent and highlight need for training if required.
  - CPCS cards must be endorsed with D90 (A) - Demolition Plant - Material Processing.
  - Offer training to inexperienced operators. This may be a more experienced operator or supervisor coaching on site or off-site formal training sessions.
  - Operators are to speak up if they are asked to do work that they are not experienced in.
- Site review of the materials to be loaded and processing area**
  - Identify the type of material being loaded; heavy structural steels, light sheeting, ductile or brittle rebar. Review the size and lengths of individual elements.
  - Identify whether additional processing is required. Additional time and/or space may be required.

## Loading

- Container checks**
  - Review the skip/bin when it arrives and leaves site; this review could be carried out by the Supervisor/ Banksman/Machine operator/traffic marshal as appropriate. The project may have an inspection procedure with named individuals.
  - Reject significantly damaged skips with obvious structural defects. Document any damage with photographs before and after loading.
- Loading**
  - Always prioritise segregation of materials if project allows.
  - When mixing materials, heavy metals are generally loaded at the bottom unless being used to weigh down light sheet materials that could come loose in transit.
- Attachments**
  - Hydraulic processor can be used for all duties, cutting, crushing or manipulating waste.
  - Grapples are suitable for handling only, such as light metals and rubbish.
  - Buckets are the least preferred option.
  - Exclusion zone to full reach of machine is even more critical. Tighter vigilance for this method than the hydraulic processor as the operator does not have the same level of control.

- **Attachments**

- **Placing steel** - Structural steels can be filled into a skip without the need for compression. May reach limit before volume is full.
- **Compressing outside the bin** - Steel must be compressed and bundled outside the bin into small tight bundles preferably using hydraulic processor. This will require a larger separate processing area.
- **Projecting waste** - Ensure all material is within the side of the skip and below the top line of the skip.
- **Impacting within the bin** - The application of any pressure to steel by an excavator/attachment within a skip is prohibited
- Be aware during the above activities of not overloading the skip in volume or weight.

## KEY POINTS

- Ensure an appropriate sized exclusion zone is in place with adequate controls. Review the project RAMS for guidance.
- Ensure the most suitable attachment is used and the excavator is large enough for the size of skip/bin. Good visibility of the loaded skip is key.
- Machine operator is to be competent in the skip loading operation otherwise training is to be offered.
- Select the most appropriate method of filling the bin relative to the project.
- The application of any pressure to steel by an excavator/attachment within a skip must be avoided.