



Refuse Driver and Collectors Safe Working Practices

To enable the Council to fulfil its legal obligations under the existing Health and Safety legislation the following instructions should be strictly observed:-

1. GENERAL

- 1.1. All reasonable precautions should be taken in carrying out your work to safeguard the health and safety of yourself and other persons who may be affected by your acts or omissions.

2. PERSONAL PROTECTION

- 2.1. The protective gloves and overall provided should be worn at all times whilst at work.

3. HANDLING ON SITE

- 3.1. When carrying refuse sacks keep them away from your legs as they may contain sharp objects.
- 3.2. Always test the weight of a dustbin before lifting.
- 3.3. When lifting a dustbin bend your knees and keep your back straight.
- 3.4. If a dustbin is too heavy, get assistance.
- 3.5. Never lean over fences or walls to pick up dustbins.
- 3.6. Do not block your vision by carrying a pile of boxes in front of you.
- 3.7. When carrying out work in public places all reasonable precautions should be taken to ensure that the public are not exposed to undue hazards, e.g. skips on footways where persons are likely to fall over them.

3.8. Do not ride on any external part of a vehicle.

4. OPERATIONS/SYSTEMS

- 4.1. Never load a refuse vehicle while it is in motion. Never reverse from house to house while loading is in progress.
- 4.2. The driver must be guided back when reversing a vehicle.

- 4.3. A clear system of signals should be established between loaders and driver – one to stop, two to operate packing gear.
- 4.4. Refuse must not be pushed through the screw type gear on a Musketeer refuse vehicle using hands, metal bars, timber, etc.
- 4.5. The crew must stand clear of the packing gear before operation.
- 4.6. The vehicle is not to be left when the packing gear is rotation.
- 4.7. **Operatives must not, in any circumstances, ride on any external part of refuse collection vehicle. Such practice is dangerous.** Men have been killed as a result!

5. HAZARDS FOR CREW

- 5.1. Never ride on or climb into a hopper.
- 5.2. Riding on the rear steps of any external part of a vehicle is prohibited.
- 5.3. Stand clear of the lifting/lowering gear on Bulk Container vehicles when they are working.
- 5.4. Do not open or store equipment in the inspection chambers on the sides of vehicles.
- 5.5. Stand clear of the rear of the vehicle when discharging the load on tip.
- 5.6. Do not alight from the offside of a vehicle when on the highway.
- 5.7. Do not interfere with or misuse anything provided in the interest of health, safety or welfare.
- 5.8. If an accident occurs, ensure that an Accident Form is completed.