
2 August 2024

Advisory to Waste Generators and General Waste Collectors (GWCs)

Dear Sir/Madam

Overfilling of Open-Top Containers (OTCs) Endangers Your Workers and Other Road Users

We would like to seek the cooperation of waste generators and other users of OTCs such as companies and Town Councils to help ensure that the OTCs are not overfilled at their premises.

Exceeding the Maximum Laden Weight of vehicles attracts a fine

Overfilled OTCs that exceed the maximum laden weight (MLW)¹ is a hazard to both drivers and other road users. It is an offence under the Road Traffic Act for vehicles that exceed the MLW to be used on the road; and vehicles found in violation of load limits may face fines of up to \$1,000 and/or imprisonment for up to 3 months for first-time offenders, and doubled for repeat offenders.

Overfilled OTCs Should Not Be Hauled for Safety Reasons

Under the licensing conditions, the GWCs are required to ensure that the OTCs are not overly filled with waste and that waste must be securely covered during transportation. Failure to do so could pose safety hazards to other road users, e.g. waste could drop off on the road. Similarly, this would compromise the safety of the drivers and staff of the disposal facilities.

Hence, OTCs should only be filled up to their brim, which also makes it easier for the OTCs to be securely covered for transportation.

GWCs have the rights to reject collection of overfilled OTCs if waste generators do not cooperate and ensure no overfilling of OTCs. Errant GWCs found hauling overfilled OTCs may be subject to enforcement action.

¹ MLW refers to the weight of a vehicle and its maximum load that can be carried safely on roads

DOs and DON'Ts of OTC Management

| <u>DOs</u> | <u>DON'Ts</u> |
|--|--|
| Ensure that OTCs are only filled up to the brim. | Do not overfill OTCs. |
| OTC swing doors must be securely closed and latched before being hauled onto vehicle for transportation. | Do not climb onto/into filled OTCs. |
| OTCs must be securely covered before being hauled onto vehicle for transportation. | Do not stand near OTCs during hauling. |
| The side wall height of the OTC should not be extended using boards, pallets, rebars and/or other materials. | Do not stand near OTCs and vehicles while discharging is in operation. |

Examples of properly filled OTCs and overfilled OTCs are in the [Annex](#).

More information is available on the following websites –

- 1) **Advisory on overloaded vehicles**, visit <https://go.gov.sg/overloadedvehicles>
- 2) **Workplace Safety and Health Guidelines for General Waste Management**, visit <https://www.wmras.org.sg/launch-of-wsh-guidelines/>

Annex

Figures 1 and 2 – Overfilled OTCs (Negative example)



Figure 1 The side wall height of the OTC was extended using boards, which is unsafe.



Figure 2 The side wall height of the OTC was extended using boards, grating and other materials.

Figure 3 – OTC with waste properly contained (Positive example)



Figure 3 Refuse is contained under the side wall height of the OTC.