



Information on the New Scrap Metal Laws

Please Note

The information in this fact sheet is taken from the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013, the new Regulations and current national guidance. Stroud District Council provides this information to give assistance to Scrap Metal Dealers on their obligations under the new legislation however it does not cover everything and there may be further regulations and further national guidance on how the legislation will apply in practice.

What is Scrap Metal?

Scrap metal is any old, waste or discarded metal or metallic material, and any product, article or assembly which is made from or contains metal and is broken, worn out or regarded by its last holder as having reached the end of its useful life. The definition includes platinum and a range of other rare metals now being used in catalytic converters. Gold or silver are not included in the definition of scrap metal.

What is a Scrap Metal Dealer?

A dealer is someone carrying on a business which consists wholly or in part of buying or selling scrap metal, whether or not the metal is sold in the form in which it is bought. A dealer also includes someone carrying on business as a motor salvage operator. A manufacturing business that sells scrap metal created only as a by-product of the processes it uses, or because it has a surplus of materials, is not included.

What is a Motor Salvage Operator?

This is a business that:

- wholly or in part recovers salvageable parts from motor vehicles for reuse or re-sale, and then sells the rest of the vehicle for scrap
- wholly or mainly involves buying written-off vehicles and then repairing and selling them off
- wholly or mainly buys or sells motor vehicles for the purpose of salvaging parts from them or repairing them and selling them off.

What is a Site?

A site is any premises used in the course of carrying on business as a scrap metal dealer (whether or not metal is kept there). This means that someone who trades in scrap metal will need a site licence for their office even if they do not operate a scrap metal store or yard.

What is a Mobile Collector?

This is a person who carries on a business as a scrap metal dealer other than at a site and regularly collects waste materials and old, broken, worn out or defaced articles by means of visits from door to door.

Offence of buying scrap metal for cash

You can only buy scrap metal in the following ways:

- By cheque
- By electronic transfer of funds. This includes credit or debit card

It is an offence to accept cash or payment in kind (ie with goods or services)

Requirement to Verify Supplier's Identity

The Act says you cannot receive scrap metal from a person unless you can verify the person's name and address. You must do this by checking documents that have a photo to prove identity and also show the person's address. The Government has told us what documents are acceptable.

Documents that are acceptable that have a photograph are:

- a valid United Kingdom passport;
- a valid passport issued by an EEA state;
- a valid Great Britain or Northern Ireland photo-card driving licence; or
- a valid UK biometric immigration document.

Documents that are acceptable that show the full name and address are:

- a bank or building society statement;
- a credit or debit card statement;
- a council tax demand letter or statement; or
- a utility bill, but not a mobile telephone bill.

For example a photocard driving licence will enable you to check the photograph and the address. However if you see a passport to check the photo you will also need to see something from the second group to check the address as a passport does not show the home address.

Requirement to Keep Records

The Act requires you keep the following records. You must keep these records for 3 years.

Receipt of Metal

- Description of the metal including its type, form, condition, weight and any marks or distinguishing features
- The date and time of receipt
- If the metal is delivered to you by vehicle the registration of the vehicle

- If the metal is received from a person the full name and address of the person. This includes if you collect door to door.
- If you pay for the metal the full name of the person who makes the payment
- If you receive the metal from a person you must keep a copy of any document which you use to verify the name and address of that person. This includes if you collect door to door.
- If you pay for the metal by cheque you must keep a copy of the cheque
- If you pay for the metal by electronic transfer you must keep the receipt of the electronic payment or if no receipt you must record the particulars of the transfer

Disposal of Metal

These apply to both Sites and Collectors and whether or not the metal is disposed of in the same form in which it was received.

- Whether or not the disposal is to another person
- Whether or not the metal is dispatched from a site
- Date and time of disposal
- If disposal is to another person the full name and address of that person

Under a Site Licence you must also record

- Description of the metal including its type or types if mixed, form and weight
- If you receive payment for the metal whether by sale or exchange, the price or other consideration received

Contact Us

Contact the Licensing Team using the details below

Personal visit to: Stroud District Council Offices Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf, Westward Road, Stroud. (We would advise callers to make appointments)	Writing to us at: The Licensing Section, Stroud District Council, Council Offices, Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf, Stroud, Glos. GL5 4UB
Email: licensing@stroud.gov.uk	Phone: 01453 754404
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