Scrap4Free for scrap metal yards and waste sites – how it works

Since 1 October 2026, sites that receive waste must report every load to Defra within 2 working days. Scrap4Free does it from one login: loads from Scrap4Free collectors arrive already filled in, and your other loads take a minute to add. Scrap4Free has passed Defra's production approval tests.

Office / owner · Collector · Customer · Yard / site · Scrap4Free · Automatic

1 Set up – once, about 10 minutes

Office / owner
Apply
At **scrap4free.co.uk/yards**: choose Scrap metal yard or Waste site, give your permit or exemption number.

›

Scrap4Free
We check and approve
We check your permit and email you a link to set your password.

›

Office / owner
Add your Defra API Code
From your site's registration on GOV.UK "Report receipt of waste". Paste it in Settings.

›

Office / owner
Set your usual code
Choose what you usually do with the waste (e.g. R4). It's filled in on every load.

2 A Scrap4Free load arrives

Collector
Collector arrives with the QR
The collector's waste transfer note and load details come with them.

↓

Automatic
Load is already filled in
Matched to your site by permit number – carrier, waste codes, weights.

↓

Yard / site
Confirm at the gate
Check it and add your weighbridge weight if it differs.

↓

Automatic
Sent to Defra
Tap send, or switch on auto-send. You get Defra's waste tracking ID. Free to send.

3 Any other load – yours, typed in

Yard / site
Add a load
Date and time received, weighbridge ticket (optional).

↓

Yard / site
Who brought it
Carrier and vehicle registration. No carrier registration? Pick the reason (e.g. householder).

↓

Yard / site
What they brought
Waste type (EWC), weight, container, recovery code. Hazardous and POPs questions only when needed.

↓

Automatic
Save and send to Defra
Checked before sending, then sent. Or "Save for later" and send within 2 working days.

4 Stay on top of it – Home and All loads

Automatic
Due
Loads not sent yet, with their 2-working-day deadline (bank holidays counted).

›

Yard / site
Needs fixing
If Defra doesn't accept a load, the reason is shown in plain English. Fix and resend.

›

Yard / site
Correct a sent load
Send Defra a correction with the same tracking ID.

›

Office / owner
Records
Search and filter every load, download a spreadsheet, open or print any load.

Who does what

One login for your site. Your Defra API Code links your site on Defra's service to Scrap4Free.

Who	What they do	What they need
Yard / site owner	Applies, adds the Defra API Code, sends loads, fixes anything Defra doesn't accept, downloads records.	Your environmental permit or exemption number, and your site's Defra API Code.
Gate / weighbridge	Confirms Scrap4Free loads as they arrive and adds other loads as they come in, using the site's login.	Any computer, tablet or phone.
Scrap4Free collectors	Bring loads with their waste transfer note and QR code, so the load is already filled in.	Nothing from you.
Other carriers and householders	Bring loads as usual. You add them in about a minute.	Nothing from them.
Scrap4Free	Checks your permit, sets up your account, sends your loads to Defra's waste tracking service.	–

Price

Free for 30 days

£29.99

a month after the trial

Scrap4Free loads

Free

sending them to Defra is always free

Run skips or vehicles too?

Add on

driver waste notes – see the Skip Hire sheet

- **The Defra rule:** sites that receive waste report each load within 2 working days of receiving it. The portal shows what's due and when.
- **Defra's answer is shown straight away:** a waste tracking ID when accepted, or the reason when it isn't – in plain English.
- **Every change is recorded:** corrections keep Defra's tracking ID, and the portal only changes a load if Defra accepts the correction.

When the trial ends: there are 7 extra days to subscribe. After that you can't add new loads until you subscribe – but you can still view and download everything, and Scrap4Free loads still send free.

Start

- Apply and log in: **scrap4free.co.uk/yards**
- Get your Defra API Code: register your site on GOV.UK "Report receipt of waste".