



How to Obtain a Waste Management Permits in Nigeria (Complete Guide 2026)

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1. Overview of Waste Management Permits in Nigeria

Waste management permits are environmental approvals issued to companies whose activities may impact the environment through:

- Waste collection
- Waste transportation
- Waste recycling
- Waste disposal
- Hazardous waste handling
- Industrial waste generation
- Medical waste disposal
- E-waste recycling

Environmental permits ensure businesses operate in compliance with national environmental regulations.

The main federal regulator responsible for issuing environmental permits is:

- **National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA)**
- Under the **Federal Ministry of Environment**.

2. Regulatory Authorities Responsible for Waste Management Licensing

Authority	Role
NESREA	Federal environmental permits
Federal Ministry of Environment	EIA approvals
State Environmental Protection Agencies	State waste permits
Local Government Councils	Sanitation approvals
Special agencies (LAWMA, AEPB etc.)	State waste regulation

NESREA enforces environmental laws and ensures industries comply with waste disposal standards.

State agencies may also require additional permits before operation.

3. Laws Governing Waste Management Permits in Nigeria

Waste management licensing is regulated by:

- NESREA Act 2007
- Environmental Impact Assessment Act
- National Environmental (Sanitation & Waste Control) Regulations 2009
- Harmful Waste Act
- Pollution Abatement Regulations

These laws require companies handling waste to obtain environmental approval before operation.

4. Types of Waste Management Permits in Nigeria

NESREA issues different environmental permits depending on activity.

Permit Type	Purpose
Waste & Toxic Substances Permit	Waste handling & disposal
Air Quality Permit	Emission control
Eco Permit	Environmental compliance
E-waste Permit	Electronic waste
Biodiversity Permit	Environmental protection

NESREA categorizes environmental permits to avoid duplication.

Waste management companies typically require:

- Waste & Toxic Substances Permit
- Environmental Compliance Permit
- EIA Approval (if required)

5. Who Needs a Waste Management Permit

You need a permit if you operate:

- Waste collection company

- Recycling plant
- Scrap business
- Landfill
- Medical waste disposal
- Hazardous waste handling
- Industrial waste treatment
- Waste transport company

Businesses handling waste must obtain NESREA approval before operation.

6. Requirements for Waste Management Permit in Nigeria

Company Documents

- CAC Certificate
- Memorandum & Articles
- TIN
- Company profile

Technical Documents

- Waste management plan
- Environmental management plan
- Equipment list
- Vehicle list
- Staff qualification

Environmental Documents

- Environmental Impact Assessment (if required)
- Site layout
- Safety plan

Other Requirements

- Proof of office address
- Consultant report
- Payment receipt

Required documents are submitted during permit application.

7. Step-by-Step Process to Obtain Waste Management Permit

Step 1: Register Company

Register with CAC.

Step 2: Conduct Environmental Assessment

Required for high-impact waste projects.

Step 3: Enroll on NESREA Portal

Step 4: Submit Permit Application

Step 5: Pay Processing Fee

Step 6: Inspection

Step 7: Approval

Step 8: Permit Issued

NESREA processes permits through online application system.

8. Application Procedure on NESREA Portal

1. Visit permit portal
2. Enroll company
3. Get NESREA ID
4. Upload documents
5. Select permit
6. Submit form
7. Pay fee

Applications are acknowledged within working days.

9. Inspection & Audit

NESREA may conduct:

- Facility inspection
- Environmental audit
- Safety check

Permits are issued only after compliance.

10. Cost of Waste Management Permit in Nigeria

Item	Cost
Processing fee	₦20,000 and Above
Annual permit fee	varies
Consultant fee	varies
EIA	varies

Processing fee for waste permit is ₦20,000 for standard NESREA permits to over ₦2 million for major industrial waste disposal facilities.

Some recycling registrations cost about ₦50,000 annually and above.

11. State Waste Management Permit

You may also need:

State Agency

Lagos LAWMA

Abuja AEPB

Rivers RIWAMA

Kano KEPA

State permits are required in addition to NESREA approval.

12. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Required for:

- Landfills
- Recycling plants
- Hazardous waste
- Industrial waste

EIA must be approved before permit.

13. Renewal of Waste Permit

Permit must be renewed yearly.

Requirements:

- Inspection report
 - Payment receipt
 - Compliance report
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14. Compliance Obligations

After approval:

- Keep waste records
 - Submit audit report
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- Allow inspection
- Follow disposal rules

NESREA monitors compliance.

15. Common Mistakes

- Applying without EIA
- Using wrong permit
- No state approval
- Incomplete documents
- No inspection readiness

16. FAQs (People Also Ask)

Is waste management permit compulsory in Nigeria?

Yes, required for any business handling waste.

Who issues waste permits?

NESREA and state agencies.

How long does approval take?

2–8 weeks.

Can I operate without permit?

No, penalties apply.

Do recyclers need permit?

Yes.

Do hospitals need waste permit?

Yes for medical waste.

17. Common Misconceptions

Only big companies need permit?

All waste handlers need permit

NESREA alone is enough?

State permit also required

Permit once is forever?

Must renew yearly

Waste transport does not need permit?

It requires approval

18. Conclusion

Obtaining a **Waste Management Permit in Nigeria** is mandatory for any business involved in waste collection, disposal, recycling, or treatment. The process involves registration with **NESREA**, submission of environmental documents, inspection, payment of statutory fees, and approval from federal and state environmental authorities. Companies that fail to obtain the permit risk closure, penalties, and prosecution under

environmental laws.

Following the steps in this guide ensures **full regulatory compliance, faster approval, and smooth business operation in Nigeria.**

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