



The City of New York
BUSINESS INTEGRITY COMMISSION
100 Church Street · 20th Floor
New York · New York 10007
Tel. (212) 437-0500 · Fax (646) 500-7096
www.nyc.gov/bic

Daniel D. Brownell
Commissioner and Chair

February 22, 2018

****For Immediate Release****

Contact: Salvador Arrona at (212) 437-0523

Commissioner Brownell Announces Safety Manual to Improve Safety in the Trade Waste Industry

NEW YORK — Commissioner and Chair Daniel D. Brownell today announced the release of a detailed safety manual to improve safety in the trade waste industry in New York City. The manual, entitled “[Trade Waste Safety Manual](#),” provides vital information on how trade waste companies and their workers can operate safely in New York City. Essential safety topics covered in the manual include equipping workers with personal protective equipment, proper lifting techniques, collision avoidance recommendations, and safe hopper operations. The safety manual was developed by the Commercial Waste Zone Collection Safety Working Group (Working Group), comprised of members from the trade waste industry, trade waste organizations, union leaders, and environmental and traffic safety advocates. The manual is designed to serve as a template for trade waste companies to use and develop their own comprehensive safety plans. This is the next step in improving safety in the trade waste industry.

Commissioner Brownell said, “This safety manual is the culmination of a collaborative effort among a wide range of interested parties with the common goal of improving safety in the trade waste industry. It is essential that government, the trade waste industry, union leaders and advocates all work together to help the City achieve its Vision Zero goals.”

“Waste collection is a dangerous business, and it is imperative that we take steps to make it safer for employees and the public. The Sanitation Department is proud to have been able to share best practices and lessons learned with this diverse set of stakeholders. As a part of the larger Commercial Waste Zones effort, this announcement is one of many steps we are taking to achieve cleaner air, safer streets, and quieter nights for New York City,” said Sanitation Commissioner Kathryn Garcia.

Laura Anglin, Deputy Mayor for Operations, said, “Strong safety guidelines for private carters in New York City are crucial to our Vision Zero goals. Codifying this commitment to a safer waste industry is a big step toward safer streets, and we’ll continue working closely with all stakeholders to make sure they’re doing their part to keep New Yorkers safe.”

“Stricter safety guidelines for private carting companies will prompt better driving behavior, ultimately creating a safer environment for the public as well as trade waste industry employees,” said DOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg. “Providing safe streets for all New Yorkers remains a top priority for DOT, and this safety manual is an important and innovative step towards our Vision Zero goals. We thank our sister agencies, the trade waste industry union leaders, and local advocates for their persistence on this important issue and we look forward to promoting and implementing this training manual.”

Key manual insights include:

Safe Start to the Day—Every trade waste worker should be well-rested, aware of potential hazards, equipped with the proper personal protective equipment, and trained on how to conduct thorough pre-trip inspections.

On the Collection Route—Trade waste companies should provide training that emphasizes the unique challenge of driving a large vehicle in New York City, including collision avoidance, sharing the road with pedestrians and cyclists, and safely navigating intersections.

Accountability—Develop a culture of safety by rewarding safe behaviors and coaching workers to improve unsafe ones. Have clear written expectations and develop a protocol that allows for a graduated range of responses if your workers do not follow your rules.

“I am very pleased that the BIC is proactively helping the waste industry reduce accidents and injuries, and I appreciated the opportunity to participate in the new manual’s development. SWANA will continue to work with the BIC and others to improve the safety culture of the industry, in New York City and throughout the United States,” said David Biderman, Executive Director and CEO of the Solid Waste Association of North America.

“New Yorkers for Responsible Waste Management is pleased to have contributed to the development of this Manual and will be using it to advance the industry’s expanding commitment to safety,” said Ben Velocci, President of NYRWM. “The Manual is a clear example of what can be accomplished through an effective partnership among all stakeholders. It respects the industry’s leadership in promoting the safety of both its employees and the public.”

Steve Changaris, National Waste & Recycling Association Northeast Regional Director said, “The collaborative work -- with BIC, DSNY and others -- to develop and publish this safety manual will save lives, reduce injuries and help reduce property damage in NYC.” Mr. Changaris continued, “Working these projects is in synch with our association and industry’s core safety value, and is also consistent with our commitment to get us off the US Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics top ten most dangerous occupations list.”

Frederick Schneider, Business Manager of Laborers Local 108 which represents over 1000 private sanitation workers in the Greater New York Metropolitan Area, stated, “This safety manual is a true example of what can be achieved by regulators, owners and labor unions that work in a collaborative fashion in bringing forth smart and balanced reform to our industry and thanks Business Integrity Commissioner Daniel Brownell for his leadership on this important issue, and looks forward to even greater collaboration in bringing smart and balanced reform to our industry.”

The following members of the Working Group were essential to the development of the Trade Waste Safety Manual:

- BIC: Daniel D. Brownell, Salvador Arrona, and Emily L. Anderson
- DSNY: Stephen Harbin and Justin Bland
- Action Carting Environmental Services Inc.: Ron Bergamini and Sal Mastriani
- D & D Carting Co., Inc.: John DiNardi
- Laborers Local Union 108: Mike Hellstrom and Frederick Schneider III
- Mr. T Carting Corp.: Paul Zambrotta
- National Waste & Recycling Association: Steven Changaris
- New Yorkers for Responsible Waste Management: Kendall Christiansen
- Solid Waste Association of North America: David Biderman
- Transform Don't Trash NYC: Brigid Flaherty and Annabel Short
- Transportation Alternatives: Julia Kite
- Teamster Local Union 813: Sean Campbell and Ray Borrero
- Waste Connections, Inc.: Andy Moss

##