

Scrap Metal Frequently Asked Questions

How much will the Licence cost?

A Site Licence will cost £1500 and a Collector's Licence is £540 in the East Lindsey District Council area.

There are two parts to the Licence Fee. Part A is paid for on Application and is non-refundable. Part B is paid once the application has been granted and before the Licence is issued.

Site Part A Fee: £1000

Site Part B Fee: £500

Collector Part A Fee: £360

Collector Part B Fee: £180

How long is my Licence valid for?

Three years, both the Site and Collector's Licence are valid for three years.

I have a Waste Carrier's Licence do I need a Site/Collector's Licence?

Yes, to operate as a Scrap Metal Dealer you will need a Site or Collector's Licence as well as the Waste Carrier's Licence issued by the Environment Agency. Your Waste Carrier's Licence must remain valid for the duration of your Scrap Metal Licence.

Why do I need this Licence?

The Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 was brought in to force to provide effective and proportionate regulation of the Scrap Metal sector. It has created a more robust, locally run licensing regime that supports legitimate dealers yet provides the power for Local Authorities to tackle unscrupulous operators. It will help to raise standards across the sector as a whole.

When did the Act come into force?

The Act came into force on 1st October 2013.

What are the different types of Licences?

There are two types of Licence, one is a Site Licence and the other is a Collector's Licence.

A Site Licence authorises you to carry on business as a Scrap Metal Dealer at the site(s) listed within your application form. You are able to collect scrap under this Licence but must display a copy of your Site Licence in all of your vehicles.

A Collector's Licence, or mobile collector licence, is for scrap metal collectors who carry on business collecting scrap and then weigh it in at a site.

I have a Collector's Licence for another Local Authority area, can I operate in East Lindsey?

No, a Collector's Licence authorises the licence holder to operate as a mobile collector in the area of the issuing local authority.

I have a Site Licence, can I operate in another Local Authority area?

Yes, a Site Licence requires all the sites at which you operate business from within the Local Authority area to be identified. A Site Manager must be named for each site and in doing so, you will be permitted to operate from those sites as a Scrap Metal Dealer, including transporting scrap metal, by appointment to and from those sites from any Local Authority area.

I am a Motor Salvage Operator do I need a Licence?

Yes, this legislation rescinds previous certificates of registration under the Motor Salvage Operators Regulations 2002, dealers and operators need to apply for a new registration under the 2013 Act as previous certificates were made invalid on 1st November 2013.

Do I need a Licence as a Plumber/Farmer/Roofer etc?

The answer to this question varies according to individual business circumstances to a certain extent, but generally where the sale of the metal is incidental to the main type of work or business undertaken then a Licence will not be needed. In the case of most tradesmen such as Plumbers and Electricians and some skip hire firms the sale of scrap metal is not the main part of their business and they will not require to be licensed as a Scrap Metal Dealer. Where though there is a reasonable expectation, for example, that the material deposited in the skip will contain significant amounts of scrap metal, such as skips used where there is demolition activity or ones sited at engineering manufacturing establishments and plumbers' yards, then the skip hire company will generally require a Scrap Metal Licence.

What happens if I fail to display my Licence clearly?

All Sites must display a copy of their A4 sized Licence in the Site Office. All vehicles must display the smaller A5 sized Licence in the windscreen of the vehicle. The maximum fine for failing to display your Licence is £1000.

How can I get an Application Form?

Call the Council on 01507 601111 to request a form to be posted out or download it from our website. You can also email scrap.metal@e-lindsey.gov.uk

DBS Information

Your application will need to be accompanied by a Basic Disclosure Check certificate (DBS Check), dated within a month of your application being submitted. This was formally called a CRB check.

You can apply online at: <https://www.gov.uk/request-copy-criminal-record>

You can also call the DBS Helpline for further assistance on 03000 200 190.

What happens if I have a Criminal Record?

A criminal record does not automatically mean you will not be eligible to apply for a Scrap Metal Licence. Please refer to the Scrap Metal Policy & "Relevant Offences" document on our website for further information.

Can I pay cash for Scrap Metal?

No, the Scrap Metal Dealers Act has made it illegal to pay for scrap metal in cash.

Do I need to keep Records of what I collect and weigh in?

Yes, under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act all dealers including Sites & Collectors must maintain accurate records of what metal they are collecting and disposing of. You can find further guidance on record keeping on the ELDC website.

What happens if I don't keep Records?

The Local Authority that issued your Licence can request to see copies of your Scrap Metal Record Keeping. If accurate records are not kept, there is an unlimited fine in the Magistrates Court. If convicted, this relevant offence may lead to your Licence being revoked as you could be considered an "unsuitable" person to hold a Licence.

What happens if I am stopped by the Police?

If you are stopped by the Police and you are carrying scrap they will ask to see your Licence. Information may be shared with the Local Authority that issued your Licence. Enforcement action will be taken where you have breached the requirements of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act, for example, failed to display your Licence. It is an offence to operate without a Licence and you may be prosecuted. East Lindsey District Council complete Days of Action in collaboration with Lincolnshire Police to tackle unlicensed dealers.

How will customers know I am a Licensed Scrap Metal Dealer?

Once your Licence has been granted, your business details are passed to the Environment Agency who maintain the national Scrap Metal Public Register. Members of the public can search this register to find a local and licenced Scrap Metal Dealer. This register is published on the Environment Agency website:

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-scrap-metal-dealers>

What happens if I don't apply for a Licence or I don't renew my Licence?

Operating as a Scrap Metal Dealer without a valid Licence is an offence. If you fail to apply for a Licence or fail to renew and continue to operate you may be prosecuted. There is an unlimited fine in Magistrates Court. If convicted you will have a relevant offence which will mean that you will no longer be a "suitable person" to operate as a Scrap Metal Dealer and your business would be forced to close.