

New York City Department of Sanitation
Notice of Adoption of Rule Relating to the Implementation of the Brooklyn East,
Manhattan Northeast, Queens West, and Manhattan West Commercial Waste Zones

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with the requirements of Section 1043 of the New York City Charter and pursuant to the authority vested in the Commissioner of the Department of Sanitation by sections 753 and 1043(a) of the New York City Charter and Titles 16 and 16-B of the New York City Administrative Code that the Department adopts the following rule adding the implementation schedule for the Brooklyn East, Manhattan Northeast, Queens West, and Manhattan West Commercial Waste Zones (CWZ). The Department published a Notice of Opportunity to Comment on the proposed rule in the City Record on July 15, 2026. On August 25, 2026, the Department held a public hearing on the proposed rule.

Statement of Basis and Purpose of Rule

In 2019, New York City enacted Local Law 199 requiring the establishment of a new program for the collection of commercial waste. The program, known as the Commercial Waste Zones (CWZ) program, is a safe, efficient, and competitive collection system designed to provide high-quality service to New York City businesses while advancing the City's waste diversion and sustainability goals. Pursuant to Local Law 199 of 2019, codified in Title 16-B of the New York City Administrative Code, the geographic area of New York City has been divided into 20 CWZs. Pursuant to a request for proposals process, three private carters providing commercial waste collection services were selected by the Department to serve businesses within each CWZ, and five carters were selected to provide citywide containerized commercial waste collection services to businesses that use dumpsters and compactors. The selected carters are referred to as "awardees." The resulting contracts with the awardees include standards for pricing, customer service, safety, environmental health, and requirements to promote the City's commitment to recycling and sustainability.

Local Law 199 of 2019 requires the Department to issue rules setting forth an implementation start date and a final implementation date for each CWZ established. See Ad. Code § 16-1002(e)(3). Different implementation start and end dates may be established for different CWZs. The Department previously set the implementation start and end dates for the first ten CWZs: Queens Central, Bronx East, Bronx West, Queens Northeast, Brooklyn South, Lower Manhattan, Midtown South, Staten Island, Brooklyn North, and Upper Manhattan. This rule sets the implementation start date and final implementation date for the next four zones: Brooklyn

East, Manhattan Northeast, Queens West, and Manhattan West. Subsequent rules will set the implementation dates for the remaining six zones.

Local Law 199 of 2019 also prohibits awardees from refusing commercial waste collection services to any commercial establishment required to provide for the removal of such waste within a commercial waste zone for which the awardee has been awarded an agreement with the City. See Ad Code § 16-1005(a)(2). Section 20-22(a)(2) of the Rules of the City of New York provides that awardees must offer such commercial establishments the following levels of service per week: at least two days of refuse collection, one day of designated recyclable materials collection, and, if the commercial establishment is a designated covered commercial establishment, at least one day of source separated organics collection. The Department received complaints from customers who were unable to contract with awardees for service below these levels of service. This amendment clarifies that these service levels constitute a default level of service and do not preclude an awardee from providing less frequent service to an establishment that requests less frequent service and that an awardee may not deny, suspend, or terminate service to an establishment that need less frequent service than the default level of service provided for in such Section 20-22(a)(2).

DSNY's authority for these rules is found in Section 753 and Section 1043(g) of the New York City Charter and Title 16-B of the New York City Administrative Code. The Department received one written comment in support of the proposed rule and two written comments about unrelated issues. The comments did not lead to any changes in the rule.

New material is underlined.

[Deleted material is in brackets.]

“Shall” and “must” denote mandatory requirements and may be used interchangeably in the rules of this department, unless otherwise specified or unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

Section 1. Subdivision b of section 20-02 of Title 16 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended to read as follows:

(b) Awardees for one or more of the commercial waste zones set forth in subdivision (a) of this section and for citywide containerized service are authorized to commence service in the awarded zones on the following implementation start and final implementation dates:

Zone name	Implementation start date	Final implementation date
Queens Central	September 3, 2024	January 2, 2025
Bronx East	October 1, 2025	November 30, 2025
Bronx West	October 1, 2025	November 30, 2025
Queens Northeast	January 1, 2026	February 28, 2026
Brooklyn South	January 1, 2026	February 28, 2026
Lower Manhattan	April 1, 2026	May 31, 2026
Midtown South	July 1, 2026	August 31, 2026
Staten Island	July 1, 2026	August 31, 2026
Brooklyn North	October 1, 2026	November 30, 2026
Upper Manhattan	October 1, 2026	November 30, 2026
<u>Brooklyn East</u>	<u>January 1, 2027</u>	<u>February 28, 2027</u>
<u>Manhattan Northeast</u>	<u>January 1, 2027</u>	<u>February 28, 2027</u>
<u>Queens West</u>	<u>April 1, 2027</u>	<u>May 31, 2027</u>
<u>Manhattan West</u>	<u>April 1, 2027</u>	<u>May 31, 2027</u>

§ 2. Subdivision g of section 20-20 of Title 16 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended to read as follows:

(g) If a commercial establishment fails to enter into a written agreement with a zone awardee selected for the zone in which such commercial establishment is located or a containerized commercial waste awardee in accordance with the requirements of this section by the final implementation date for such zone, and the Department has determined that the commercial establishment stores its waste in a container that has a capacity of 10 cubic yards or more, the Department may assign a zone awardee or a containerized commercial waste awardee to such commercial establishment for containerized commercial waste collection services. The processes and terms of service set forth in subdivision (e) of 16 RCNY § 20-26 shall apply except that the Department shall determine the required [minimum] default level of service for such commercial establishment.

§ 3. Subdivision a of section 20-22 of Title 16 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended to read as follows:

(a) General prohibition; [minimum] default level of service.

(1) [An awardee may not deny, suspend, or terminate commercial waste collection service to any commercial establishment within a zone for which the awardee has been awarded an agreement, except as otherwise provided in this section and as set forth in the agreement between the awardee and the Department pursuant to section 16-1002 of the Administrative Code.

(2)] An awardee must offer to each commercial establishment within a zone for which the awardee has been awarded an agreement including the following [minimum] default level of service:

- (i) At least two days of refuse collection per week;
- (ii) At least one day of designated recyclable materials collection per week; and
- (iii) If the commercial establishment is a designated covered establishment, at least one day of source separated organics collection per week.

[(3) Nothing in this subdivision shall prevent a] (2) An awardee may not deny, suspend, or terminate commercial waste collection service to any commercial establishment within a zone for which the awardee has been awarded an agreement, including a commercial establishment that needs less frequent collection than the default level of service described in paragraph (1) of this

section, except as otherwise provided in this section and as set forth in the agreement between the awardee and the Department pursuant to section 16-1002 of the Administrative Code.

(3) A commercial establishment and an awardee [from] may mutually [agreeing] agree on terms of service that include less frequent or more frequent collection than the [minimum] default level of service described in paragraph (2) of this subdivision, provided that an awardee may not refuse service to a customer because the customer needs less frequent collection than the default level of service.