

### What You Need to Know

Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme, <u>Re-turn</u>, will go live on 1 February 2024. Following the introduction of <u>Separate Collection Legislation</u> to achieve EU recycling targets, Retailers who sell 'in scope' drinks containers are legally obliged to <u>register with Re-turn</u>. The Re-turn team are always on hand to provide support and information on all aspects of the Scheme and how it will operate.

<u>In Scope Drinks Containers</u>: PET plastic bottles, aluminium & steel cans

**Deposit Fee:** 150ml - 500ml = 15c Over 500ml - 3litres = 25c

## **Hospitality Obligations**

Ireland's DRS Legislation defines a 'Retailer' as any person who for the purpose of trade or otherwise, in the course of business, sells or otherwise supplies 'in scope' products to a final consumer. If your business sells or otherwise supplies in scope products, you are defined as a 'Retailer' and are legally obliged to register with the Scheme.

## **Take Back Exemptions**

All Hotels, Restaurants, Bars and Cafes (HORECA) are required to <u>register with Re-turn</u> and will automatically be eligible for a Take Back Exemption once completed. This is based on the premise that the majority of drinks containers are purchased for on-site consumption.

A Take Back Exemption means that a business is not obligated to take back in scope drinks containers from consumers. In this case, businesses must clearly display the Take Back Exemption notice which provides a QR code and website details for nearest Deposit Return point locations.

Businesses that primarily operate as "Food to Go" Retailers will have the option to apply for a Take Back Exemption. The criteria for this will apply to premises with a footprint of 250 sq. metres or under.

Online Retailers also have the option to apply for a Take Back Exemption, subject to these Retailers displaying a QR Code and Re-turn website address on the receipt / sales documentation, allowing customers access to Deposit Return points locations.

\*All HORECA businesses have the option to voluntarily offer a take back service.

# **Deposit Charging Exemptions**

The hospitality sector is split between on-site consumption and off-site consumption. Businesses that predominantly cater for onsite consumption are not obligated to charge a deposit for in scope products. The rationale for this is that the empty containers remain on premises and are consumed on-site.

It is up to each establishment to determine whether or not to charge the deposit. If a deposit is charged, the consumer can take their container off site. If the deposit is not charged, then the business is responsible for collecting the containers and taking them to a Return Point Operator to reclaim their deposit.

## **Hospitality Obligations**

In order to comply with the <u>DRS Regulations</u>, Hospitality businesses have to:

- Have a Take Back Exemption notice prominently displayed for consumers instore, with website address and QR code locator to find the nearest Deposit Return Point (Issued by Re-turn when exemption granted)
- For Online Retailers, the QR code and Re-turn website link must be displayed prominently on receipts / sales documentation for consumers.
- Deposit must be displayed as separate line item on receipt to consumers.
- Deposit value should be displayed on Shelf Edge Labels (SELs) / online pricing, where applicable.

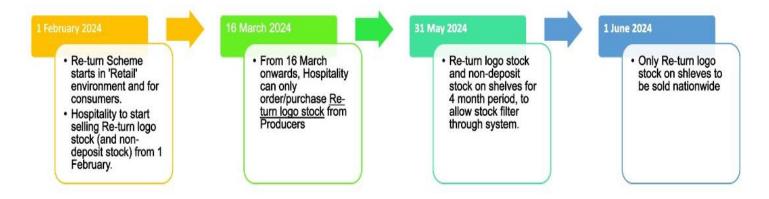


For further guidance on obligations and recommended POS, please refer to the <u>Retailer</u> Membership Rules and the Retailer Toolkit.

#### **Transition Period**

Re-turn have confirmed a <u>Transition Period</u> to facilitate both Producers and Retailers in ensuring all non-deposit stock can be flushed through the system.

- All HORECA businesses can take <u>delivery</u> of Re-turn logo stock from 1 January 2024.
- Retailers can <u>sell</u> Re-turn logo stock from 1 February 2024
- Retailers cannot purchase non-deposit stock from 16 March 2024
- From 1 June 2024, all stock on retailer shelves must only be Re-turn logo stock



# **Next Steps**

All businesses who sell 'in scope' drinks containers are legally obliged to register with Return. To register and find out more, please go to <a href="www.re-turn.ie/retailer">www.re-turn.ie/retailer</a>
If you have any questions, email us at <a href="mailto:info@re-turn.ie">info@re-turn.ie</a>