



What You Need to Know

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

In Scope Drinks Containers:

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 [register with Re-turn](#) 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 store size of 250 sq. metres or under. Definition of store size may be accessed [here](#).

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 [DRS Regulations](#), 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 [Retailer Membership Rules](#) and the [Retailer Toolkit](#).

Transition Period

Re-turn have confirmed a [Transition Period](#) to facilitate both Producers and Retailers in ensuring all non-deposit stock can be flushed through the system.

- All HORECA businesses can take delivery of Re-turn logo stock from 1 January 2024.
- Retailers can sell 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 Re-turn. To register and find out more, please go to www.re-turn.ie/retailer
If you have any questions, email us at info@re-turn.ie