



Ireland's New Deposit Return Scheme

Webinar on International Barcodes
9 November 2023



Agenda

- **Re-turn Requirements for International Barcodes**
- **Fees for the use of International Barcodes**
- **How Re-turn will charge for International Barcodes**
- **Barcode Changes**
- **International Barcodes and the Transition Period**
- **Route to Market Scenarios**



Introduction

- International barcodes are defined by Re-turn as barcodes that are present on in-scope containers sold in the Republic of Ireland and shared with other jurisdictions such as the UK and Europe.
- International barcodes present a specific financial fraud risk to Re-turn.
- Barcodes that are shared with other countries with no deposit return scheme are considered high risk as it may be possible for a consumer to purchase a registered product in that country, pay no deposit on the container and still receive a refund when that product is returned for recycling.



Re-turn Requirements for the use of International Barcodes

- It is the preferred position of Re-turn in all cases that Republic of Ireland (ROI) specific barcodes are used.
- International barcodes are however permitted.
- All producers using an international barcode are required to have the Re-turn logo on the container.
- Where producers are using an international barcode, a surcharge will apply.
- Only micro producers will be exempt from international barcode surcharges.



Surcharges for the use of International Barcodes

Total of In-Scope Products Placed on the Market per Producer per Annum	Surcharge for the Use of an International Barcode per In- Scope Product
0 - 749,999	€0
750,000 - 1,499,999	€0
1,500,000 - 10,000,000	€0.0135
More than 10,000,000	€0.0312



How will Re-turn charge for the use of International Barcodes?

- Due to the risks associated with the use of international barcodes, producers will be asked to report what they expect to place on the market in the month ahead by the 7th of each month.
- Producers will then be invoiced for the appropriate producer fees and any surcharges that apply on the 13th of each month.
- There will be a reconciliation process for International barcodes when actual values are received from the producer. This will result in a credit and reinvoice where applicable.



Do I need to change my International Barcode for DRS Go Live?

- Producers are permitted to retain current international barcodes post go live.
- National (ROI) specific barcodes must be changed in preparation for go live.
- Due to the application of a surcharge on international barcodes, there is a level of mitigation for the fraud financial risk associated with non deposit stock being returned for a refund during the transition period.
- The preferred position is that new barcodes are used for all in-scope products post go live (as above, this is not mandatory for international barcodes).
- This ensures differentiation between deposit and non deposit stock throughout the supply chain which in turn allows for a less complex transition period in terms of stock management.



International Barcodes and the Transition Period

- Any non DRS product barcode retained post go live poses a challenge in differentiating non DRS from DRS product.
- Where international barcodes have been retained, additional measures to identify non DRS product from DRS product may be required (identification at warehouse and store level).
- The logo will be a key identifier for the primary packaging.
- It can also be used on secondary and tertiary packaging. Other measures such as colour coding may be feasible.
- Self adhesive logo labels are also available from Re-turn to help support this differentiation.



International Barcodes and the Transition Period

9

- Stock management to clear shelves of non-DRS stock, replenish with DRS stock and switch EPOS systems to charging the deposit will likely be a requirement where international barcodes have been retained.
- Close collaboration between producers and retailers in terms of stock cover will be vital in managing non DRS stock out and DRS stock in to ensure full compliance by the 1st of June 2024.



Route to Market Scenarios and International Barcode Usage

- A product is sold directly to a Northern Ireland distributor by an ROI producer, it is considered exported and does not need to be reported to Re-turn.
- Where product is routed through a Northern Ireland distributor to the Republic of Ireland, the producer must ensure that 0% of that product will be sold on the Northern Ireland market.
- If any of the product will also be sold on the market in Northern Ireland, the barcode must be reported as an international barcode.



Route to Market Scenarios

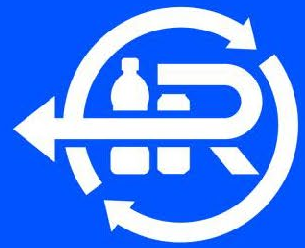
- If a producer in ROI sells in scope product to an NI distributor in the full knowledge that it is for sale back in ROI, then the producer may sell ROI specific barcode product but must take full responsibility as the producer, declare and report the product and pay producer fees and deposits.
- We are recommending to Northern Ireland distributors that they set up an ROI entity, thus becoming the producer and having direct responsibility to the scheme for the payment of producer fees and deposits.
- Where a Northern Ireland distributor becomes a producer, it removes the obligation from potentially small retail customers in ROI to register with the scheme.



Summary

- International barcodes are those used in ROI and any other market.
- It is preferred that any barcode going from non-DRS to DRS is changed but ROI specific barcodes must be changed.
- International barcodes are permitted but may be subject to surcharges depending on the volume of in scope product placed on the Irish market.
- Due to the risk associated with the use of International barcodes they should be reported for the month ahead by the 7th of each month and will be invoiced by the 13th of each month.
- If any product is sold to ROI via an NI distributor and may end up on the market in NI it must be reported as an international barcode.





Re-turn

Ireland's New
**Deposit
Return
Scheme**

Thank you

