



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.

To prevent waste, for a limited period from 1 February, there will be some stock of plastic bottles and cans that may not feature the Re-turn logo. Should consumers be charged a deposit on these drinks containers, please assure consumers that they will get their deposit back when they return their drinks container empty and undamaged to RVM Deposit Return Points nationwide.

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 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

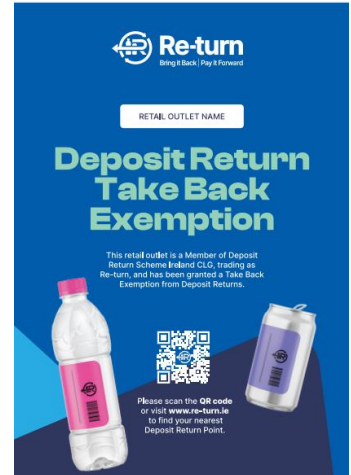
The hospitality sector is split between on-site consumption and off-site consumption.

Businesses that predominantly cater for onsite consumption do not have to charge a deposit for in scope products. The rationale for this is that the empty containers remain on premises and are collected on-site. It is up to the 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 retailers@re-turn.ie