

In Scope and Out of Scope Containers and Products for Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme

Version 2 – May 2025

Containers

In Scope Containers	Out of Scope Containers
PET Beverage Bottles	HDPE / other plastic Beverage Bottles
Aluminium / Steel Beverage Bottles	Non Beverage PET Bottles
Aluminium / Steel Beverage Cans	Aluminium / Steel Food Cans
	Composite Beverage Cartons (e.g. Tetra Pak, Elopak)
	Foil / Plastic Composite Stand Up Drinks Pouches
	Plastic Pots, Tubs and Trays
	Hybrid Cans (PET Body with Aluminium Can End)
Returnable Beverage Bottles or Cans (refilled in factory)	Returnable Beverage Bottles or Cans (refilled in store)*
In scope containers with volume of beverage from 150ml – 3 litres	Beverage containers with a volume of beverage <150ml and >3 litres

Products

In Scope Product	Out of Scope Product
Alcohol: Cider	Alcohol: Dairy based liqueurs
Alcohol: Beer	Dairy: Yogurt Drinks
Alcohol: Wine	Dairy: Butter Milk
Alcohol: Spirits & Liqueurs	Dairy: Milk Shakes
Alcohol: Cocktail Mixes	Dairy: Flavoured Milk (e.g. strawberry or chocolate milk)
Non Alcoholic Alternatives to above	Dairy: Milk (Whole, Skimmed, Low Fat)
Ready to Drink Teas / Coffees (non-dairy)	Ready to Drink Teas & Coffees with dairy
Nut / plant / cereal based milk alternatives (non-dairy)	
Water: Functional / Vitamin Waters	Cough syrups and other over the counter medicinal products and drinks prescribed for medicinal purposes only**
Water: Still	
Water: Sparkling	
Water: Flavoured	
Soft Drinks: Carbonated	
Soft Drinks created by diluting: Cordials / Squashes incl. Ready To Drink versions	
Soft Drinks: Energy	
Soft Drinks: Sports	
Soft Drinks: Mixers	
Soft Drinks: Functional / Vitamin	
Protein Drinks / Shakes (non dairy)	Protein drinks made with dairy based protein (e.g. whey)

Products...continued

In Scope Product	Out of Scope Product
Juices: From Concentrate	
Juices: Juice Drinks / High Juice	
Juices: Not from concentrate	
Juices: Freshly squeezed / Vegetable	
Smoothies (no dairy component)	Smoothies (with a dairy component)
Syrups / Concentrates / Purees consumed directly or added as a key component to create a beverage (e.g. cocktail bases, concentrated mixers and concentrated juices).	Liquids used to add flavour, enhance the flavour or sweeten beverages but that are not added to create the beverage itself (sugar syrups or coffee syrups)

*Where PET is used for this purpose, the producer / retailer must demonstrate that the containers are designed for multiple uses and that the number of filled containers exceeds the number of empty containers. Failure to do so will be viewed as a breach of the DRS regulations where the volume of these containers is between 150ml and 3 Litres.

**Liquids that can be consumed for non-medical reasons will be considered beverages.