

Re-turn

Ireland's New Deposit Return Scheme

RVM Grants Guide

October 2024



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What are the RVM Grants?

- Back in summer 2023 Re-turn promised to support smaller retailers with a grant to help them buy an RVM – and we said we would come back with details of how to apply
- We've now launched the grant scheme and the details are below – but basically if you qualify we'll pay you up to €12,000 over the next 3 years to contribute to the cost of each of your RVMs

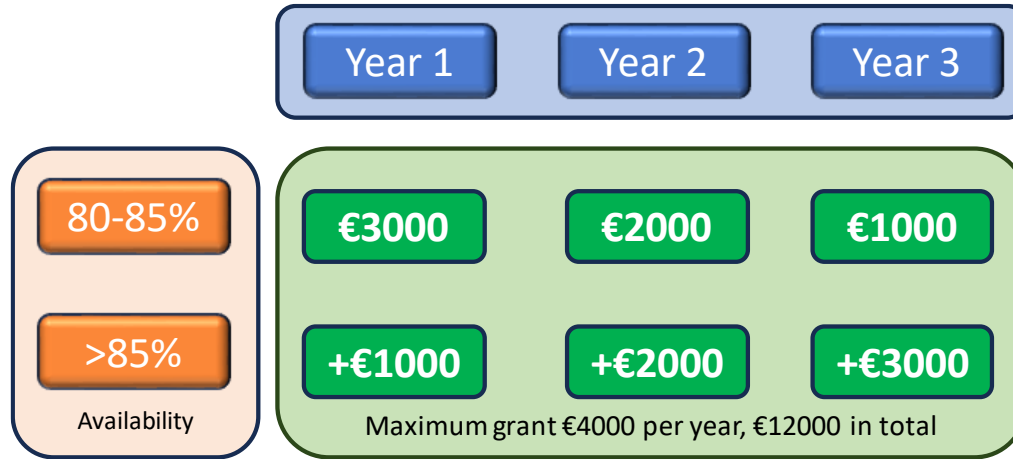
How do I qualify for a Grant?

We ask you to meet 3 conditions before we will pay out a grant:

- As a retailer, in the last year, the total handling fee we have paid you is no more than €1m
 - Remember the grant is to help smaller retailers who may not be able to afford an RVM
- Each RVM qualifying for a grant can only have accepted up to 250k containers in the last year
- Each RVM qualifying for a grant must have an availability of at least 80%
 - RVM availability refers to the total time the RVM is online and available for customers to use

Please note that we will measure the availability, volume and handling fee over each full year that you operate your RVM. This makes it fair for everyone because everyone will be assessed over the same length of time. That RVM year starts from the later of when you registered your RVM, and when it took in its first container. So if you registered on 1 April 2024 and took your first container on 4 April 2024 then we will measure the availability and volume from 4 April 2024 to 3 April 2025, and the value of handling fees over the 12 monthly invoices before 3 April 2025.

What Grants are Available?



Examples:

- An RVM with 200k containers accepted each year and achieving 90% availability would qualify for the full €12,000 (€4,000 paid each year)
- The same RVM whose availability in Year 2 dropped to 82% would qualify for €10,000 (€4,000+ €2,000+ €4,000)
- An RVM with 200k containers accepted in Years 1 and 2, and 400k containers accepted in Year 3, with over 85% availability, would get €8,000 (€4,000+ €4,000+ €0)
- An RVM with 200k containers accepted each year and achieving 82% availability would qualify for €6,000 (€3,000+ €2,000+ €1,000)

What do I need to do to get a Grant?

We need you to apply for the grant, so we have your details and so that you are familiar with the full terms and conditions of the grant (which we'll ask you to confirm you have read and agreed to during the application process).

Please note – submitting an application for a grant does not necessarily mean that you will qualify for a grant. We will assess your RVM for a grant at the end of each year to make sure it complies with the criteria above.

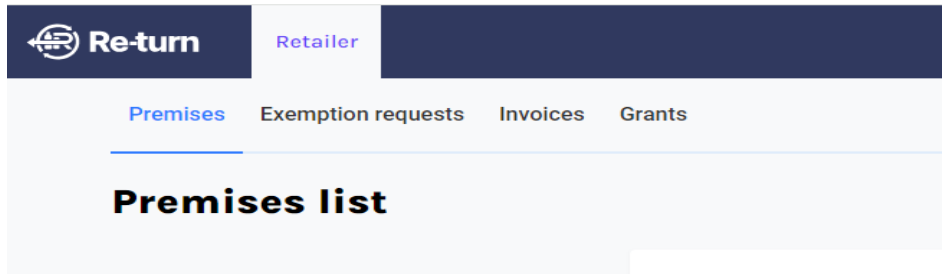
How to Apply (1)

1. Go to the Re-turn portal at www.re-turn.ie/retailers and login with your usual username and password

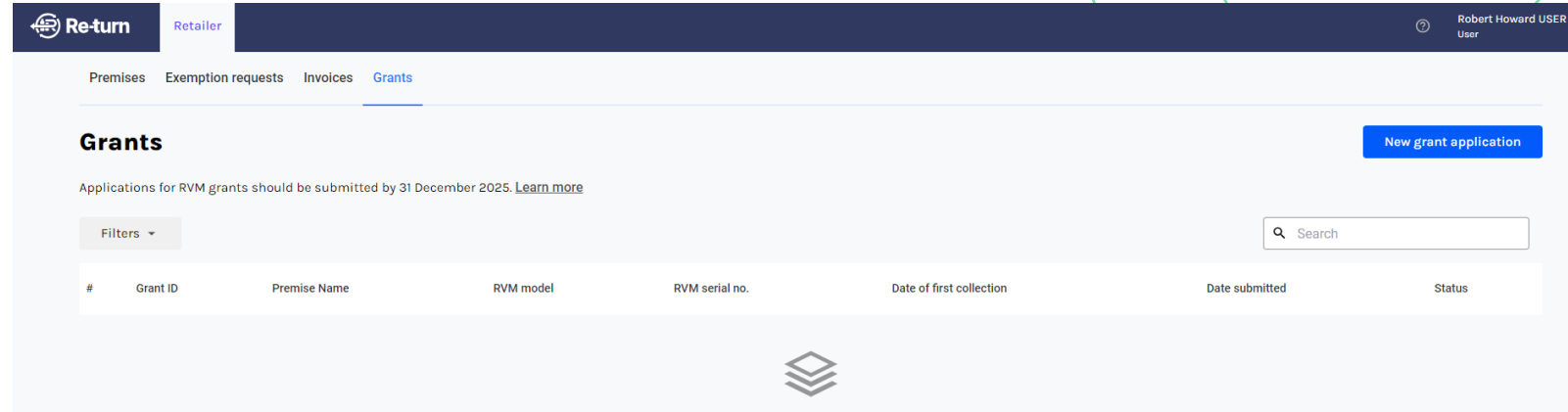
If you've forgotten your password, don't worry – you'll be able to reset it when you try to login

And if you're still having problems logging in just give us a call on 1800 852 752 or email us at retailers@re-turn.ie

2. When you've logged right-hand you'll see the usual first screen – but over on the right hand side there is a new tab for Grants (see below)



3. Click on 'Grants' and you'll see a new screen entitled Grants – it will be empty the first time you come here, but on the right hand side is a blue button "New grant application". To begin an application, please click this button titled "New grant application".



How to Apply (2)

4. The next screen is shown below and is entitled New grant application. This is where you select the RVMs for which you wish to submit an application (in the vast majority of cases you'll have one or two but some may have a longer list) . If you have already submitted applications for all your RVMs then you won't see any RVMs listed.

5. Click on the tick box on the left, for each RVM grant application.

Please note – you can only select a maximum of 5 RVMs at a time at this stage – but you can come back and select the rest once you've applied for the first 5.

If your RVM is leased then let us know how long the lease is for, in the column on the right hand side. You may need to scroll across to the right hand side to select this.

Once you've done that click on the blue "Validate and Continue" button, and the system will do some initial checks

Grant eligibility requirements:

- You can apply for a grant if you as retailer have been paid less than €1m in handling fees, or if the RVMs for which you are applying have each returned less than 250k containers, in the past year.
- The decision to award a grant will be made at the end of each year of operation of your RVM. The acceptance of an application does not necessarily mean that you will receive a grant. For full details see [RVM Grants Guide](#).

Select RVMs
Limit of 5 RVMs per application. Include lease period if applicable.

0 selected rows ▾

	RVM model	Premise Name	Serial Number	Leased RVM
<input type="checkbox"/>	TOMRA T70 Dual		947065422	
<input type="checkbox"/>	TOMRA T70 Dual		947065423	

How to Apply (3)

6. The system checks 3 things before letting you proceed:

- a. If you as a Retailer have already received more than €1m in handling fees then you will not be able to proceed – this is one of the key criteria
- b. If you have tried to submit more than 5 RVMs in one application the system will flag this. You will need to deselect some of your RVMs so there is only a maximum of 5 selected and try again. If you have more than 5 RVMs you can come back after submitting applications for the first 5
- c. If any RVM has already taken in more than 250k containers then that RVM will be flagged with a message – it won't qualify for a grant. Please ensure to deselect any RVMs with more than 250k containers accepted, and select 'Continue' again.

	RVM model	Premise Name	Serial Number	Leased RVM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RVM X20i test machine (showroom) Selected RVM is not eligible due to exceeded volume.	Eannas 2nd test premise	20234505085	Less ...

7. The final step is to read, and agree to the Grant Agreement. This agreement is an addition to the Retailer Rules that you signed when you first joined Re-turn. The Grant Agreement lays out the details of the grant scheme and what you need to do to comply. To agree with the Grant Agreement and proceed with your application, you need to tick the box then press the 'Confirm and Submit' button

8. And that's your application submitted. If you have more RVMs, just click on the 'New Grant Application' button and submit applications for the remaining RVMs (the ones for which you have already made an application won't show on that screen).

What do I do after submitting my Application?

The most important thing you should do now is focus on keeping your RVM available for customers. Remember – your RVM needs to have an availability of at least 80% to qualify for any grant – and more grant funding is provided for availability above 85%. Here are some things to do to keep availability high:

- Keep the RVM clean and well maintained – follow the manufacturer’s recommendations
- Empty the bins as soon as they are full – this is one of the most common reasons for low availability
- Clear any blockages as soon as possible
- Respond to any customer queries about the operation of the RVM as quickly as possible

If you need support, advice or have any questions about your RVM, reach out to your RVM supplier. You can also get in touch with us on 1800 852 752 or email us at retailers@re-turn.ie – we can give you some hints and tips about how to improve availability.

You can check on what applications you have submitted by going back to the first Grants page. Here you will see a list of your RVMs and the grant reference number and date of submission. The grant status will show as ‘Sent for Review’ and once we’ve checked it over it will move to Application Received.

Anything else I need to know?

Apart from keeping availability high, that's it until you get to the anniversary of your RVM. At that time we will check the grant criteria, and get in touch within a few weeks to tell you how much you qualify for. Payment will follow shortly after that.

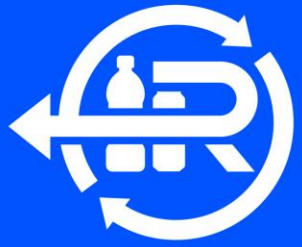
There are some specific details of the scheme that it's worth knowing:

- We know that in the first few months of scheme operation, everyone was getting used to the new system and the RVMs, and it took many retailers a while to get into a good regime of cleaning and maintenance and fault-finding. So we won't use any availability data between 1 Feb and 31 July 2024. If your RVM year started on 1 Feb 2024 then we will measure availability from 1 August 2024 until 31 Jan 2025, for year 1, and then for the full year from 1 February 2025 for the Year 2 grant
- There is no great rush to apply. But for the hundreds of retailers who have had an RVM right from launch, if we receive your application in the next few months we'll be able to start considering your grant.
- In some cases we may be able to pay a grant for a year even if your volume is slightly over 250k and is offset by lower volumes in later years. We won't know if we can do that until the end of year 3 – if your total volume is no more than 750k over the 3 years then we might be able to retrospectively pay a grant for years where the volume was above 250k. We'll be in contact if this applies to you, at the end of Year 3

Anything else I need to know? (2)

- While the grant is mainly targeted at retailers who have already bought an RVM, we have included an allowance for new RVMs. We know lots of retailers wanted to see how the scheme developed before committing to the purchase of an RVM, and now that the grant scheme has launched with even more funding available than originally announced, we expect to receive applications for new RVMs as well. **But there are 2 key points to bear in mind here:**
 - If you are considering buying an RVM, make sure that you will have enough returned containers – and so enough handling fee income – to pay for it over its life. If there are lots of RVMs already near your store you may find that you don't get that many returns
 - The extra allowance/grant being available to new RVMs is limited and the grant scheme does have a cap. There are lots of areas of the country where there are already enough RVMs and there will come a point – like all other countries with DRS – where there are sufficient RVMs. So the extra grants potentially available are limited and will stop once Re-turn have secured 300 additional new RVMs in small to medium stores across the country. That may mean we bring forward the planned close date of 31 December 2025 – but we will give plenty of notice if we do that.
- We are particularly keen to see new RVMs in areas where there is low coverage – perhaps where a retailer took an exemption but is now considering buying and installing an RVM. If that's something you're considering please contact us at retailers@re-turn.ie and we can help you with the process. You can also speak to your trade association (if you are a member of one) for advice and support.

Thanks again for your support in making a success of Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme!



Re-turn

Ireland's New
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