

SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY

THE DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME PRESENTATION TO REHIS

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June 2022



Scottish Environment
Protection Agency

Buidheann Dion
Àrainneachd na h-Alba

DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME IN SCOTLAND

What is the Deposit Return Scheme?

From August 2023

You will pay a 20p deposit when you buy a drink in a single-use container.

The following containers are included:

- PET plastic bottles (most fizzy drinks and water bottles)
- Steel and aluminium cans
- Glass bottles
- In 50ml to 3 litres size

Most retail outlets will also operate a return point.

It should be as easy to redeem a deposit as it was to buy a drink.



DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME IN SCOTLAND

What will it achieve?

The main policy driver for the Regulations is to **promote and secure an increase in recycling** of materials

This forms part of the Scottish Government's response to the global climate emergency, creating a more **circular economy** where products and **materials** are kept in a **high-value state** of use for as long as possible, **maximising resources** to benefit the economy and the environment.

Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme will be **owned and operated by industry** (Drinks Producers) with targeted regulatory oversight by **SEPA**.

The regulations contain **collection targets** of:

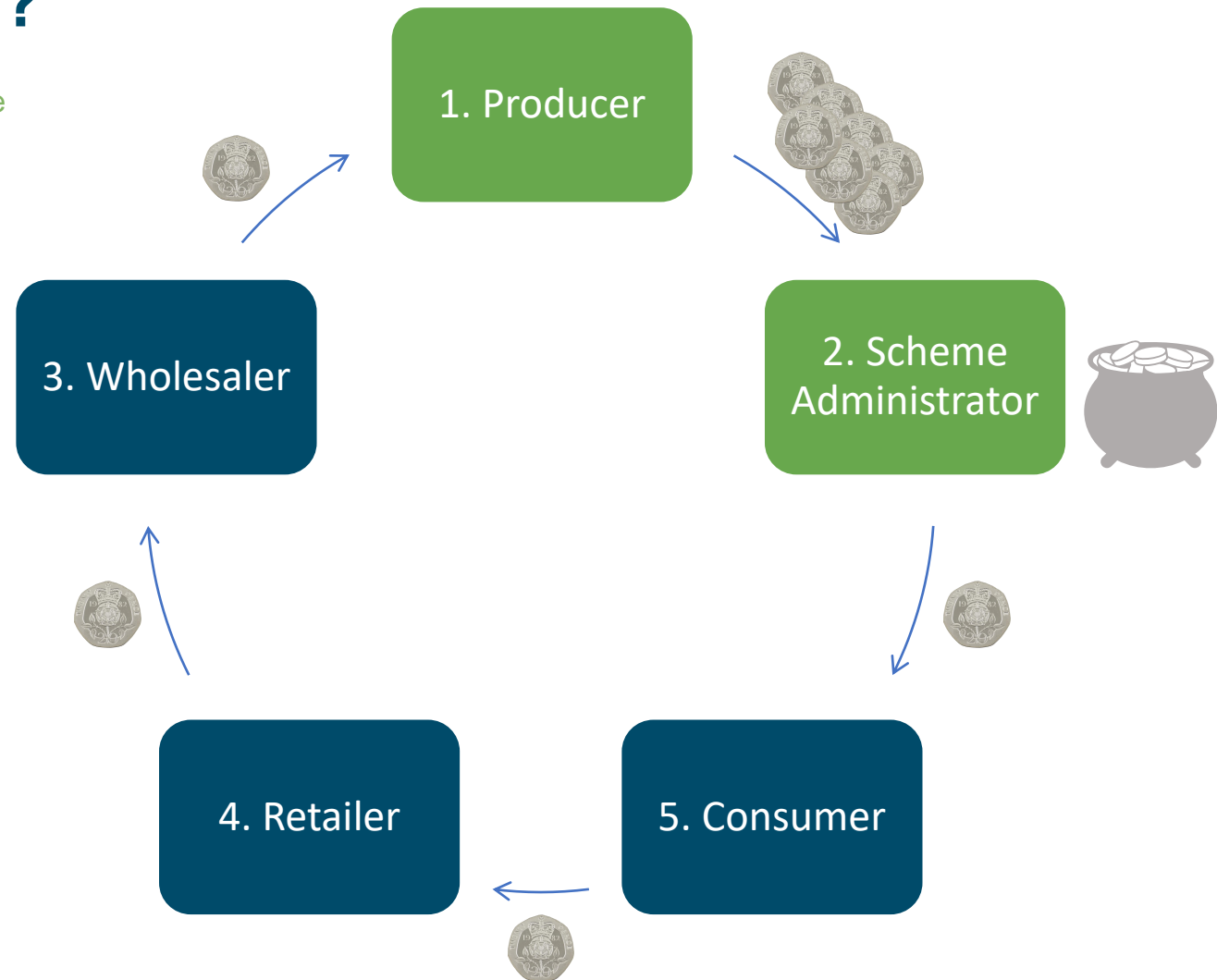
- **80%** of containers placed in the market in 2024
- **90%** of containers placed on the market from 2025



DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME IN SCOTLAND

How will it work?

It is a Producer Responsibility scheme



Obligated drinks are called “scheme articles”.

DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME IN SCOTLAND

What will you see in shops? (includes online)

From 16 August 2023

Signage:

- Everywhere drinks (scheme articles) are displayed for sale
- Deposit is 20p
- How deposit can be redeemed

At tills:

- Deposit will be charged for each scheme article sold
- Informed no deposit and no return if drink isn't a scheme article

Return Points:

- Unless the retailer holds an exemption
- Unless only sold via a vending machine
- Can be a manual point or Reverse Vending Machine (RVM)



DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME IN SCOTLAND

What will you see in hospitality settings?

e.g. Café, bar, restaurant

Where drinks are sold only for consumption on the premises

Signage:

- No requirements

Return Points

- Not required to operate a return point
- All scheme packaging used by the establishment will be returned by them through the system



DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME IN SCOTLAND

Online Retailers - Takeback Points

Online retailers must provide a takeback service for scheme articles they have sold

Distance sales takeback:

- From the point of delivery
- Can charge refundable fee for packaging
- Each return = average number of articles in average transaction

Includes:

- All distance sales of scheme articles
- Supermarket deliveries
- Takeaway food
- Wine / Beer boxes etc

May involve:

- Delivery drivers also picking up scheme packaging
- Transport of waste packaging in same vehicle as food



DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME IN SCOTLAND

Return Points

From 16 August 2023

Return Points

- Manual point or Reverse Vending Machine (RVM)
- Plastic and metal will be stored together
- Glass will be stored separately
- Retailer will retain the returned packaging until uplifted by producers

Exemptions (Issued by Zero Waste Scotland)

Where:

- There is a suitable alternative close by
- Location / design / size of retail premises doesn't permit the operation of a return point due to potential breaches in:
 - Food safety
 - Health & safety
 - Fire safety
 - Environmental protection
 - Public Health



DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME IN SCOTLAND

Important Dates

1 January – 28 February 2023

- Producers must register with SEPA or Scheme Administrator

16 August 2023

- All drinks produced after this date are “scheme articles”
- Consumers will start seeing deposit bearing stock on shelves
- Retailers must operate return points
- Consumers will pay deposits and be able to return packaging for a refunded deposit

31 December 2024

- Producers must have collected 80% of packaging placed on the market that year

31 December 2025

- Producers must have collected 90% of packaging placed on the market that year



Any questions?



Contact details

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 ScottishEnvironmentProtectionAgency

 ScottishEPA

