

For the future of our environment

SCOTLAND'S DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME

Deposit labelling and signage

SEPTEMBER 2022

It is the intent of The Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland Regulations 2020 that the consumers of drinks that are in scope of Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) are aware of the cost of the deposit they are required to pay as well as the price of the drink. This is to avoid consumer confusion and allow an informed purchasing choice to be made. To achieve this, retailers must provide the consumer with clear information **before** the purchase is made that identifies the drink as a scheme article and the cost of the deposit that is being applied.

How and where this information is displayed is a decision for the retailer. There may be other legislation or regulations that cover pricing and labelling that a retailer may need to consider. Any advice required on this, should be sought from Trading Standards.

The Regulations

The Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland Regulations 2020:

- Are clear that **the deposit amount should be displayed separately**. At any place a drink is displayed for sale, information identifying the drink as a scheme article, and the amount of deposit being applied, should be clearly displayed.
- **Do not require the value of the deposit to be printed on the drink container**. However, you must clearly display the deposit amount in any place where the article is displayed for sale.
- **Do not require any price marked packaging to include the deposit amount on the packaging**. The deposit amount is not required by the Regulations to be printed on drink containers; this includes price marked packaging. The retailer must have information on the shelf/in store or displayed where selling online to make it clear that the drink is

deposit bearing, the amount of the deposit and that the deposit will be paid by the consumer at point of sale. This also applies when scheme articles are being displayed for sale to a retailer or wholesaler.

- **Do not require the deposit to be displayed on receipts.** A retailer may wish to include or itemise the amount of deposit paid to help customers understand the difference between the deposit amount charged and the retail price of their goods.

Other regulations to be aware of that are not overseen by SEPA

The Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland Regulations 2020 sit alongside existing pricing legislation enforced by Scottish Trading Standards authorities. This includes the Price Marking Order 2004 and the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008.

Please refer to your local trading standards authority for more details on how to comply with the Price Marking Order 2004.

Customer complaints around not clearly displaying the deposit, where they cannot be resolved in store, can be referred to SEPA for investigation and complaint response.

For information on accessing this document in an alternative format or language, please contact SEPA by emailing equalities@sepa.org.uk

If you are a user of British Sign Language (BSL), the Contact Scotland BSL service gives you access to an online interpreter, enabling you to communicate with us using sign language.

contactscotland-bsl.org