

Translation from Finnish
Legally binding only in Finnish and Swedish
Ministry of the Environment, Finland

Government Decree
on a return system for beverage containers
(526/2013)

Section 1
Scope of application

This Decree applies to a return system for beverage containers referred to in section 68 of the Waste Act (646/2011).

Section 2
Amount of deposit

The minimum deposits on beverage containers included in the return system for beverage containers are:

- 1) EUR 0.15 for metal containers;
- 2) EUR 0.20 for plastic containers larger than 0.35 litres but smaller than 1.0 litre;
- 3) EUR 0.40 for plastic containers of at least 1 litre;
- 4) EUR 0.10 for containers other than those referred to in paragraphs 1–3.

Section 3
Reuse and recycling obligation

(1) The party maintaining a return system for beverage containers shall organise the reception, reuse and recycling of beverage containers included in the system so that the number of containers returned every year in relation to the number of containers placed on the market by the members of the return system is as follows:

- 1) at least 90% by weight of reusable beverage containers are reused;
- 2) at least 90% by weight of non-refillable beverage containers are recycled.

(2) The party undertaking the role of the party maintaining a return system for beverage containers shall meet its obligation specified in subsection 1 on the

achievement of the reuse and recycling rate by the end of the third full calendar year following the start of the operations.

Section 4

Report on solvency and an action plan on organising reuse and waste management

- (1) The party maintaining a return system for beverage containers that is open for membership shall submit a report on its solvency and an action plan on organising reuse and waste management referred to in section 64(1) of the Waste Act to the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Pirkanmaa by the end of March of each year.
- (2) The report on solvency shall include the confirmed financial statements of the latest financial period, the budget for the new financial period and, where necessary, interim financial statements or a financial statements forecast. If the documents mentioned above cannot be submitted, solvency shall be demonstrated reliably by other means.

Section 5

Application for approval in the producer register

(1) The application for approval in the producer register by the party maintaining a return system for beverage containers shall contain:

- 1) the name, contact information and business identity code of the party maintaining the system;
- 2) the name and contact information of the contact person;
- 3) a copy of the extract from the Trade Register or Register of Associations;
- 4) the amount of deposit;
- 5) a description of the nominal volume and material of the beverage container;
- 6) a description of the beverages sold in the containers;
- 7) a description of the labels and symbols used on the containers to indicate the recycling arrangements;
- 8) an assessment of the number of beverage containers placed on the market by packaging material;
- 9) information on the market and the distribution channels;
- 10) a description of the reception, reuse, recycling and other waste management of the beverage container;
- 11) an account of the provision of information concerning the operation of the return system for beverage containers;
- 12) information on the agreements on organising reuse and waste management and the contractual parties' environmental permits and environmental management systems;
- 13) the plan and schedule for meeting the reuse or recycling obligation.

(2) In addition to the above, the application by the party maintaining a return system for beverage containers that is open for membership shall include:

- 1) names and business identity codes of the members of the return system and the dates at which they became members;
- 2) rules of the return system and, where necessary, a separate report showing how the obligations are divided among the members and how a new member can reach an agreement with the party maintaining the return system on attending to the obligation;
- 3) a report on the solvency of the party maintaining the return system.

Section 6

Notification of changes to operations

- (1) The notification specified in section 106 of the Waste Act concerning substantial changes to operations and concerning new members of the return system or members who have resigned shall be submitted within a month of the change.
- (2) Provisions on when to issue the report on solvency and the action plan on the securing of operations after substantial changes to the operations of a return system for beverage containers are laid down in section 64 of the Waste Act.

Section 7

Notification of monitoring data

The party maintaining a return system for beverage containers shall notify the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Pirkanmaa by the end of March of each year of the following information on its operations during the previous year:

- 1) the number of beverage containers placed on the Finnish market by material and packaging type and their quantity in tonnes;
- 2) the number of containers received, itemised in accordance with paragraph 1;
- 3) the number of containers submitted for reuse and recycling by material type and their quantity in tonnes, together with the name and location of the receiving facility;
- 4) the basis for the evaluation or the calculation of the data reported in accordance with paragraphs 1–3;
- 5) an account of the provision of information concerning the operation of the return system for beverage containers;
- 6) an account of the fulfilment of the reuse and recycling obligations and, where necessary, an adjusted plan for the measures required to meet the obligations and their estimated timetable.

Section 8

Entry into force

- (1) This Decree enters into force on 8 July 2013.
- (2) This Decree repeals the Government Decree on a Return System for Certain Beverage Containers (180/2005).
- (3) Section 3(1)(2) of the Decree applies to the reception and recycling of non-metal non-refillable beverage containers from 2015 onwards. Until then, the recycling rate requirement for these containers is 80% by weight.
- (4) The party maintaining a return system for beverage containers who filed an application for approval in the producer register before the entry into force of the Decree shall ensure that the reported information corresponds to the requirements of the Decree and shall submit the corrected information to the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Pirkanmaa, where necessary, within three months of the entry into force of this Decree.

Helsinki, 27 June 2013

Ville Niinistö, Minister of the Environment

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