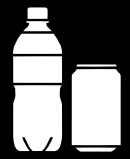
EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE

WHAT IS A DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME (DRS)?

A Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) is designed to boost recycling and cut down on litter. It works by adding a deposit to the price of in-scope drinks containers, which consumers get back when they return the empty container for recycling.

MATERIALS IN SCOPE



PET
ALUMINIUM
STEEL

150ML - 3L

HOW A DRS WORKS



STEP 1



DEPOSIT

Customers pay a deposit on each product at purchase.

STEP 2



RETURN

The deposit is refunded when the empty container is returned.

STEP 3



RECYCLED

The returned material is collected and recycled.

WHO IS EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE?

Exchange for Change is a not-for-profit body formed by industry, for industry, and appointed to administer the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) across England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The DRS is a statutory scheme established by government. Exchange for Change is responsible for designing and operating it in accordance with that legislation, working alongside producers, retailers, wholesalers and hospitality businesses to ensure the scheme is delivered clearly, consistently and effectively.

YOUR OBLIGATION AS A WHOLESALER

1. **UNDERSTAND YOUR POTENTIAL OBLIGATIONS AS A WHOLESALER OR PRODUCER WHERE APPLICABLE** (e.g. Retailer own brand, import agent)
2. **WHOLESALERS MUST DISPLAY INFORMATION AND MAKE SURE SCHEME ARTICLES CARRY THE SCHEME LOGO** (and return code)
3. **CHARGE AND COLLECT THE DEPOSIT VALUE PER IN-SCOPE CONTAINER FROM YOUR CUSTOMERS ONCE SCHEME GOES LIVE IN OCTOBER 2027**

SCAN TO GET YOUR COPY

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Contact us at **enquiries@exchangeforchange.co.uk**

STAY INFORMED

with newsletters, practical updates, timelines and guidance on the UK's Deposit Return Scheme.
Plus details of upcoming free webinars and events.
exchangeforchange.co.uk

Q1 2026
Logo regulatory requirements
Material specification
The RVM spec: supplied in Q4 2025

Q2 2026
Deposit value confirmed
Retail handling fee confirmation
Exemptions criteria

Q3 2026
Producer fee announcement
Registration period opens