exchange for change

What Producers need to do now

Materials in scope

- PET
- Aluminium
- Steel

150ml - 3L



*In Wales, glass will be included. Separate guidance will be provided.

Who is Exchange For Change?

Exchange For Change is the official operator of the UK's Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), launching on 1 October 2027.

Our purpose is to increase the rate and quality of recycling in the UK, by building a successful and efficient DRS for everyone within the drinks supply chain.

As a drinks producer it is important that you understand your obligations, monitor key dates and begin preparing now.

What is a deposit return scheme (DRS)?

A DRS is designed to boost recycling rates, capture high-quality material for reprocessing and reduce 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.

How a DRS works

STEP 1



DEPOSIT
Customers pay a 20p deposit on each product at purchase.

STEP 2



RETURN
The 20p deposit is refunded when the empty container is returned.

STEP 3



RECYCLED
The returned material is collected and recycled.

Your obligation as a producer

1 **Change labelling of products to comply with scheme logo and material guidelines**

For more information visit our resources page on our website

CLICK HERE

2 **Producers must register with Exchange For Change via our website. Registration will open in September 2026**

Producers will need to register with Exchange For Change and provide information about their business and the products they place on the market.

Exchange For Change will communicate the opening of registration through our newsletter, trade media, social media and other official channels.

3 **Understand producer fee requirements**

Producer fees have been announced and will be set at 0p per container for the first 15 months of the scheme. Further information is available on the resources page.

4 **Report volumes**

Once the scheme has launched producers will need to report the volumes they place on the market, so Exchange For Change has full visibility of the entire volume of in-scope products on the UK market.

5 **Producers will get first right of refusal on collected materials from Exchange For Change**

Exchange For Change is developing a system to facilitate this obligation for producers, and will communicate this in due course.

Deposit Return Scheme Timeline

The key dates producers should be aware of are:

Now!
Review the published material specification, identify a DRS lead within your company and sign up to our newsletter for all the latest producer updates

August 2026
Producer Fee Announced: Producer fees will be set at 0p per container for the first 15 months of the scheme, from October 2027 to December 2028

September 2026
Phase one producer registration will open.

Keep up to date

CLICK HERE

January 2027
Phase two producer registration will open.

2027 Prepare For Go Live
Prepare for required labelling changes, system updates and deposit and invoicing processes ahead of scheme launch.

October 1st 2027
The DRS launches in the UK!

Scan to register for essential updates

Calling all producers to register now

Registration timings

Producer registration is planned to take place over two phases. And both phases need to be completed.

Phase one: September 2026
High-level company information

Phase two: January 2027
Specific product and business information

Producers should not delay registration. Early action will help businesses identify what information is required during each phase, allowing adequate time to prepare product and organisational data in advance, and reducing any administrative burden.

Further detail on each phase of registration, the registration process and submission requirements will be shared through official Exchange For Change channels.

Exemptions

Low-volume product lines may be exempt from some scheme requirements. If you produce or import product lines of fewer than 5,000 units per year, or 6,250 units in Year 1 from October 2027 to 31 December 2028, you may not need to apply deposits or carry scheme labelling for those products. You will still need to register your business with Exchange For Change and report the number of drinks containers you place on the market.

Partner sharing
Please share this information with relevant producer contacts in your network or supply chain.

Why this matters

Producer engagement is a critical part of getting the scheme ready.

Early registration and engagement will help producers understand what they need to do, access the right information at the right time, and avoid unnecessary pressure closer to launch.

It will also help Exchange For Change build a clearer picture of the producer base, identify where further support may be needed, and ensure information reaches the right organisations across the supply chain.

Who this is for

Brand owners
If your business owns a drinks brand supplying containers made from PET plastic, aluminium or steel on the UK market.

Drinks manufacturers
If you manufacture drinks in containers made from PET plastic, aluminium or steel for supply on the UK market.

Importers
If you import drinks in containers made from PET plastic, aluminium or steel into the UK and place them on the market.

Contract manufacturers
If you manufacture drinks in containers made from PET plastic, aluminium or steel for supply on the UK market.

Stay informed

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

Have questions?

Contact us at
enquiries@exchangeforchange.co.uk

Where to find official information

Producers should use official Exchange For Change channels for the latest scheme information, guidance and updates.

https://exchangeforchange.co.uk/resources/

https://exchangeforchange.co.uk/faqs/

Producer Checklist

- [ ] Check which of your products are in scope under DRS legislation
- [ ] Appoint a DRS lead within your business
- [ ] Plan required changes to labelling, including DRS logo and NEW barcode
- [ ] Prepare for registration
  Phase one:
  September 2026
  Phase two:
  January 2027
- [ ] Sign up for Exchange For Change updates
- [ ] Identify any non-standard containers. Further information will be provided on the process for submitting these for RVM acceptance testing and any relevant requirements.