exchange for change

What Wholesalers need to do now

Materials in scope*

- PET
- Aluminium
- Steel

150ml - 3L



*There are separate arrangements underway for managing glass in Wales.

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, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

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.

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.

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. Visit **exchangeforchange.co.uk**

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 wholesaler

1. **Check which scheme obligations apply to your business as a wholesaler and, where relevant, as a producer** (e.g. if you sell own-brand drinks or act as an import agent).
2. **Display information about the scheme and ensure all in-scope drinks containers you sell carry the scheme logo and barcode.**
3. **From October 2027, charge customers the deposit on each in-scope drinks container you sell.**

For further information and guidance on becoming a voluntary return point please visit **exchangeforchange.co.uk/wholesalers**

Q3 2026 **Phase 1 registration opens**

Q1 2027 **Phase 2 registration opens**

OCT 2027 **Scheme launches**