

ACT Container Deposit Scheme FAQ's

What is a Container Deposit Scheme?

The ACT Container Deposit Scheme is an extended producer responsibility initiative which obliges beverage suppliers to take greater responsibility for container packaging after it has been sold.

Container Deposit Schemes are an effective and popular means of reducing litter and encouraging community participation in recycling.

The ACT Container Deposit Scheme (ACT CDS) is legislated by the ACT Government, and requires beverage suppliers to ensure that a system is in place for the recovery and recycling of their empty beverage containers.

What drink containers are eligible for a 10 cent refund?

To be eligible for a 10c refund under the ACT CDS, containers must be:

- Between 150mL – 3L in size
- Glass, PET, HDPE, aluminium, steel or liquid paperboard (cartons)

Containers should be empty and in a reasonable condition.

At the commencement of the Scheme, the ACT CDS collection points will accept crushed containers, and any container which carries the refund marking of SA and NT schemes.

What drink containers are ineligible for a 10 cent refund?

The following beverage containers are excluded from the ACT CDS:

- Plain milk (or milk substitute) containers
- Cordial containers
- Containers for concentrated fruit or vegetable juice (or a mixture of concentrated fruit and vegetable juices) intended to be diluted before consumption
- Registered health tonic containers
- Containers designed to contain less than 150ml of beverage
- Containers designed to contain more than 3L of beverage
- Glass containers designed to contain only wine or spirituous liquor
- Containers designed to contain 1L or more of flavoured milk
- Containers designed to contain 1L or more of beverage comprising at least 90% fruit or vegetable juice (or a mixture of fruit and vegetable juices),
- Containers made of cardboard and plastic, cardboard and foil or cardboard, plastic and foil (commonly known as casks or aseptic packs) designed to contain 1L or more of wine, wine-based beverage or water (including mineral water and spring water)
- Containers made of plastic or foil, or both, (commonly known as sachets) designed to contain 250ml or more of wine.

Why are some containers not eligible for a refund?

ACT CDS is an extended producer responsibility scheme, which aims to reduce litter in our community and environment.

Research via the Keep Australia Beautiful *2016/17 National Litter Index* demonstrates that single use containers make up the majority of the litter stream found in the environment.

As single use containers are the most prevalent waste product found in the environment, these containers have been identified as eligible for a 10 cent refund under the Scheme.

Where can I return my containers?

Eligible containers can be returned at either an Express Collection Point or a Bulk Depot.

Express Collection Points will be located in high traffic areas (eg. shopping centres) with accessibility in all residential catchment areas across the ACT, and Bulk Depots will be located in the main industrial catchment areas across the ACT.

The network operator is currently finalising the locations and attributes of the collection points which will be open at Scheme commencement. Once these details have been finalised, the collection points will be announced.

Are there different types of collection points?

The ACT CDS will have two types of collection points at Scheme commencement.

Express Collection Points will be an 'over the counter', face-to-face shopfront, which will accept smaller quantities of containers, and provide you with the option to donate your refund to charity, or send it via direct payment to your nominated bank account.

Bulk Depots will accept larger quantities of containers, and provide you with the option to receive a cash refund per eligible container, donate your refund to charity, or send it via direct payment to your nominated bank account.

I am mobility impaired, how can I participate in the ACT CDS?

All ACT CDS collection points are accessible under Regulation.

The ACT CDS encourages inclusive and accessible participation for all members of the community.

Will the ACT CDS have Reverse Vending Machines (RVM's), as seen in New South Wales?

The ACT CDS will not feature Reverse Vending Machines (RVM's) at Scheme commencement.

Social research conducted in late 2017 suggested that the Canberra community would prefer an 'over the counter', face-to-face container return model. The research also found that the community was in favour of a CDS which encouraged social enterprise and small business inclusion. For these reasons, Express Collection Points were developed.

Once the ACT CDS has commenced, the network operator will assess collection point demand and issue an Expression of Interest (EOI) seeking and considering applications from RVM distributors and manufacturers.

How do I get my refund?

The refund method offered for container returns depends on the type of collection point you are accessing.

At Express Collection Points you will need to register to receive a refund, and can choose to either donate the refund to a charity or send it via direct payment to your designated bank account.

At Bulk Depots you will have the option to receive a cash payment, choose to donate the refund to a charity or register to send it via direct payment to your designated bank account.

How do I register to receive refunds via direct payment?

Details regarding the registration process for eligible container refunds are being finalised by the network operator. Once finalised, information regarding the registration process will be available.

Can I return my containers in a different State or Territory, if I purchased them in the ACT?

Once the ACT CDS has commenced, eligible containers can be returned in any State or Territory in Australia where a Container Deposit Scheme is in place.

Will there be any changes to the existing kerbside collection service?

There will be no changes to your existing kerbside bin collection service.

The ACT CDS is part of a broader waste and litter reduction plan, and is complemented by the existing kerbside collection services within the ACT.

I am a school, sporting, charity or community group, how can I participate in the ACT CDS?

Schools, sporting, charity and community groups can fundraise through the ACT CDS simply by collecting eligible containers and redeeming them at collection points for 10 cents each.

Options include:

- Collecting containers (and asking community members to donate their containers to your school, sporting, charity and community group)
- Becoming a collection point
- Having your charity organisation listed as an approved charity donation partner at collection points (where the public can choose to directly donate their refunds to you)

Details around collection point and charity registration processes are being finalised. More information will be available shortly.

I am a beverage retailer or supplier, how do I participate in the ACT CDS?

Beverage suppliers play an important role in the ACT CDS. Suppliers of eligible beverage containers into the ACT need to enter into a Supply Arrangement with the scheme coordinator, Exchange for Change ACT, and contribute towards the cost of the Scheme. The financial contribution each supplier will make is commensurate with their market share of the eligible containers sold within ACT.

If you are a beverage supplier into NSW and have already entered into a NSW Supply Arrangement with Exchange for Change, you will need to sign up for ACT CDS as well, however you will not be required to pay any new sign-up fees.

On the Supplier Sign-Up tab on this website, you'll find the information and tools you need to sign-up as a Supplier into the ACT CDS.

I am a business which generates waste, including eligible ACT CDS containers, how can I participate in the ACT CDS?

Business are encouraged to participate in the ACT CDS and continue to implement smart recycling practices that focus on environmental responsibility and litter reduction.

Businesses can create a new revenue stream and actively participate in the ACT CDS by source separating their CDS recyclable materials, and work with their existing waste transporter to ensure their eligible containers are included in the ACT CDS, and a refund awarded.

The network operator is finalising information regarding how businesses can participate in the ACT CDS. Once finalised, information regarding participation will be available.