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# Guidelines for Container Approval

## *Environment Protection Act 1993*

### Beverage Container Provisions

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As of 1 September 2008, the refund value for category B containers increased to 10 cents. Containers must display the '10c' refund marking prior to 1 March 2010.

- EPA approval is required if you intend to sell beverages covered by the Beverage Container Provisions of the *Environment Protection Act 1993* (the Act) in South Australia.
- An application form, copies of artwork/labelling and proof of a waste management arrangement for the empty beverage containers is required before the EPA can approve your application. The following guidelines will assist you on how to do this.
- The EPA may request the removal of containers from the retail trade and prohibit further sales, and/or other enforcement action may be taken, where beverage containers are placed on the market and do not comply with the requirements of the Act.

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## 1 WASTE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENT for CATEGORY A or CATEGORY B CONTAINERS

### Category A—Containers returned to 'points of sale' for 10-cent refund

If intending to use 'points of sale' as the return mechanism for the containers, the applicant should ensure retailers are aware of their obligation under the Act to refund the deposit, irrespective of place of purchase, providing the containers were sold in South Australia. It is a condition of approval for this category that there is a waste management arrangement in place for the empty containers to be retrieved from retail outlets and aggregated for reuse or recycling.

### Category B—Containers returned to collection depots for 10-cent refund

If intending to use the collection depot system for the return of containers, a waste management arrangement must be established and maintained for the payment of refunds to consumers and for the aggregation of the empty containers for reuse or recycling. This is generally achieved by negotiating a contract with one of the approved industry 'super collectors'. The waste management arrangement may involve financially underpinning the provision of the refund value to the super collector and the establishment of a collection system to recover the containers. Contact details of the approved super collectors are attached to this document. The EPA will also consider alternative arrangements that satisfy the requirements of the legislation.

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## 2 REFUND MARKINGS

- The refund marking or statement should be clear and legible to the consumer.
- Only approved refund markings may be used.
- The EPA is not able to approve new beverage containers with a 5c-refund marking from 1 September 2008.
- Minimum size requirements apply for both the alpha and numeric in the refund marking.  
The numeric ('10') must be a minimum 3 mm  
The smallest letter in the wording must be a minimum 1.5 mm
- A minimum 3-mm 'free space' boundary around the refund marking is recommended.
- Refund marking—the following are the approved refund markings:

If using collection depots as the return mechanism:

**10c** refund at collection depots when sold in SA (or 'South Australia')

OR

If using 'points of sale' as the return mechanism:

**10c** refund at points of sale when sold in SA or (or 'South Australia')

### Using a sticker

If the container label does not have the refund marking printed on it a sticker with the refund marking printed on it may be used. The sticker must be firmly placed in an appropriate place on the container; not over the opening mechanism so that it is partially or completely removed when consumed.

It is recommended that samples of artwork be submitted to the EPA for appraisal and advice before the commencement of any printing or production. It is preferable that an authentic label be provided.

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## 3 APPLICATION

An application form must be completed, signed and approved by the EPA before the distribution of containers in South Australia.

The following documentation is also required in support of the application:

- a) If applying for approval of a Category B container and a contractual arrangement with an industry super collector is in place, written advice from the nominated super collector is required, confirming a waste management arrangement is in place for the containers.
- b) Irrespective of the return mechanism a sample of the container must be submitted, displaying the appropriate refund statement. Alternatively a suitable facsimile or other reproduction of the proposed label or sticker, clearly displaying the refund marking, may be submitted.
- c) It is important to give full details of the container, including size, colour, type and the material of any wrap-around sleeve or label.

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## 4 PROHIBITED CONTAINERS

Section 72 of the Act specifically prohibits the sale of 'ring pull containers'. Ring pull containers are sealed containers made from metal, with ring pull opening devices that separate from the body of the container when opened.



# ATTACHMENT 1

## LIST OF BEVERAGES COVERED BY THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT 1993

The following chart should be used only as a guide to assist you in determining which beverages and containers are covered by the Beverage Containers provisions of the Environment Protection Act (CDL). If in doubt, please contact the CDL Unit at the EPA.

BEVERAGE	CONTAINER TYPE	SIZE
Carbonated soft (non-alcoholic) drinks	All	Up to and including three litres
Water—plain, still or carbonated spring water, mineral water and any other water intended for human consumption	All	Up to and including three litres
Beers/ales/stout	All	Up to and including three litres
<b>Wine (straight wine)—Exemption applies to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• wine in glass containers</li> <li>• casks and aseptic packs holding at least one litre</li> <li>• plastic, foil or plastic and foil (sachets) containers holding at least 250 ml</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→</li> <li>→</li> <li>→</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All sizes in glass exempt</li> <li>• Containers less than one litre covered</li> <li>• Containers less than 250 ml covered</li> </ul>
<b>Wine-based and spirit based beverages</b> —any beverage that contains wine or spiritous liquor plus additional ingredients or flavours. This can include (but is not limited to): fruit-flavoured wine, wine coolers, ready to drink alcoholic beverages (RTDs)	All	Up to and including three litres
<b>Alcoholic beverages</b> —derived from the fermentation of fruit (cider, alcoholic lemonade, etc)	All	Up to and including three litres
<b>Non-carbonated, soft (non-alcoholic) drinks including:</b> (but is not limited to): fruit juice drinks, fruit drinks, 'sports' drinks, 'vitamin' drinks, 'energy' drinks, ready to drink cordials	All	Up to and including three litres
<b>Pure fruit juice</b> —means a liquid at least 90% of which is fruit juice or vegetable juice or a mixture of fruit and vegetable juices	All	Less than one litre
<b>Flavoured milk</b> —cow's milk or the milk of any other animal, soy milk, ultra heat-treated milk, low fat milk, etc	All	Less than one litre

## EXAMPLES OF APPROVED REFUND MARKINGS

Deposit value changes to 10 cents from 1 September 2008.

Size requirements for refund markings remain the same.

**Wording: minimum 1.5 mm height (for the smallest letter in the statement)**

**Numeric: minimum 3 mm height**

The statement should be clear and easily recognised by consumers. It should appear within a space that is not encumbered by other printing or artwork. A minimum of 3-mm 'free space' around the refund marking is recommended.

The following refund markings are examples only:



10c REFUND AT COLLECTION DEPOTS  
WHEN SOLD IN S.A.



## CONTACT DETAILS FOR INDUSTRY SUPER COLLECTORS

Edward Nixon

Statewide Recycling Pty Ltd

PO Box 166

KILKENNY SA 5009

Email: [edward@statewiderecycling.com.au](mailto:edward@statewiderecycling.com.au)

Telephone: 8341 2511

Facsimile: 8341 2494

Garry Bull

Marine Stores Pty Ltd

PO BOX 62

TORRENSVILLE PLAZA SA 5031

Email: [garry.bull@marinestores.com.au](mailto:garry.bull@marinestores.com.au)

Telephone: 8443 9737

Facsimile: 8443 9739

Tim Alver

Flagcan Distributors Pty Ltd

c/- Gibson and Partners

246 Brighton Rd

SOMERTON PARK SA 5044

Email: [tracey.bernard@gibsonpartners.com.au](mailto:tracey.bernard@gibsonpartners.com.au)

Telephone: 8376 0555

Facsimile: 8376 0559

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Copies of the *Environment Protection Act 1993* and Regulations may be purchased from the Service SA Government Legislation Outlet, 101 Grenfell Street, Adelaide; telephone 13 23 24.

**Environment Protection Authority**

77 Grenfell St Adelaide

Postal Address:

GPO Box 2607, Adelaide 5001

Telephone: (08) 8204 1180

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