



Mobile / Off-site Collection of Containers For Alberta Beverage Container Depots

Standard Operating Procedure No. 1-2014

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Author(s): Compliance Committee, Blaire Charlton, Manager, Administration

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In recent years it has become increasingly common for large numbers of beverage containers to be collected at a location other than a depot for the purpose of later returning those beverage containers to a depot.

The purpose of these guidelines is to set out the circumstances in which such collection (“mobile” or “off-site” collection) is considered permissible.

Two key elements in analyzing mobile or off-site collections are:

1. the financial nature of the transaction; and
2. the nature of the relationship between the owner of the beverage containers and the collector.

The financial nature of the transaction: For the purposes of these guidelines a distinction is drawn between situations where the collector of the beverage containers provides some sort of financial consideration in exchange for the beverage containers and situations where the containers are donated or given to the collector without any financial consideration. Financial consideration includes any monetary value given by the collector regardless of when the consideration is provided or the manner in which the consideration is provided (eg. cash, cheque, credit or charitable receipt).

The relationship between the collector and owner: For the purposes of these guidelines a distinction is drawn between situations where the collector has a pre-existing relationship with the owner of a beverage container, and where there is no such pre-existing relationship. A pre-existing relationship includes an agreement with a collector to collect beverage containers from a specific location at a specified time or on a specified schedule in the future. Furthermore, marketing by a collector is an attempt to solidify a predetermined arrangement. Until the owner of the beverage container agrees to utilize the collector’s services it is not a relationship. Length of relationship or time between arranging a relationship/agreement and collection of containers is not significant.

Taking into account these two key elements, Mobile or Off-Site collection of containers is allowed to occur in the following circumstances:

1. Where there is financial consideration provided by the collector:
 - a. the collector must have a pre-existing relationship with the owner of the beverage container(s);
 - b. the collector must provide a service to the owner of the beverage container(s) by picking up the containers from the owners' home, place of employment, or other agreed-upon location;
 - c. the collector can "charge" for the service being provided through paying less than the full deposit amount;
 - d. the collector cannot advertise to the general public a location or a specific time or schedule for pick-up.
2. Where there is no financial consideration provided by the collector:- the collector can collect as follows:
 - a. the collector can collect from a pre-arranged pick-up location
 - b. the collector can collect door to door
 - c. the collector can have, but does not require a pre-existing relationship

The following examples illustrate what is and is not acceptable in terms of Mobile or Off-Site Collection:

NOT ACCEPTABLE

1. An individual parks a trailer or other receptacle on a street, collects containers and gives money or a charitable receipt to a customer. This person is operating a depot without a permit contrary to the Beverage Container Recycling Regulation. While the BCMB may be prepared to grant a temporary permit in rare circumstances (such as the sudden closing of a rural depot in an area where no other means of collection is readily available), this collection activity is otherwise not permissible.

ACCEPTABLE

2. An individual or Charity collects from a pre-arranged location such as a business or residence and pays the owner of the containers, a full or partial deposit, either by cash, cheque, credit or charitable receipt at the time of collection or in the future. The individual or charity then returns the beverage container to a depot for the full deposit amount. Because the individual or

Charity has a pre-existing relationship with the owners of the containers and is providing a service, this type of collection activity is permissible.

3. A Charitable or non-profit organization (ie. Boy Scouts) go door to door collecting containers or parks a trailer or other receptacle in a public location. The collection activity is advertised. No charitable receipt or other financial consideration is paid at the time of collection or at a future time. The charitable or non-profit organization then returns the containers to a depot for the full deposit amount. This type of collection activity is permissible.

Conditions / Controls

While the BCMB is interested in increasing the number of containers that are collected and brought into the depot system, the BCMB also has responsibility for maintaining a viable depot network and for protecting consumers using that depot network. Accordingly, the BCMB intends to implement the following measures to ensure strong consumer awareness and establish parameters for Off-site or Mobile collection:

1. Registration of Mobile/Off-Site Collectors through the *lovetorecycle* program. *Lovetorecycle* has information on securing contracts, managing collection, best practices, etc;
2. Reinstatement of granting trailers through the Recycling Infrastructure Program – all applications are approved by the Industry Leadership Committee (ILC). Current criteria exists and a Depot must be in good standing to access grants/infrastructure through this program;
3. Communication to the depot network through the ABDA of the Standard Operating Procedures for mobile collection;
4. Education to the depot network at the 2014 Regional meetings, 2014 ABDA Conference and the BCMB website;
5. Depots who violate the Standard Operating Procedures will first receive a written warning and further education regarding the Standard Operating Procedure for mobile / offsite collection. Further violations will receive levies.