

NOTICE

TO: Alberta Bottle Depot Network

FROM: Beverage Container Management Board (BCMB)

DATE: February 28, 2025

RE: **Updates to BCMB Depot By-law**

Dear Depot Network,

On February 19, 2025, the BCMB Board of Directors approved amendments to the [Depot By-law](#).

Changes to the By-law include:

- Rural, Urban and Metro Areas will now be referred to as “Municipalities”
- A definition of “Drive Time” used in amendments of Section 3.6 and utilized by BCMB Management for Depot Siting
- The number of Depots allowed in a Metro Municipality shall be calculated by dividing the population of that Metro Municipality by 45,000, amended from 40,000
- Amendments to Section 3 regarding Rural Municipality permitting

The By-law changes will come into effect on April 1, 2025.

All relevant By-laws, Acts, Policies and Agreements can be found [here](#).

What You Need to Know

Definitions

Municipalities

Based on advice from legal counsel, the BCMB Board has approved that Rural, Urban, and Metro Areas will now be referred to as Municipalities in By-law, using the following new definition:

“Municipality” means a municipality as defined in the Municipal Government Act RSA 2000 c. M-26, but for the purpose of this by-law also includes an Indian Reserve within the meaning of the Indian Act (Canada).



The change provides clarity in instances where the Bylaw prescribes siting or operational requirements based on the population of a municipality a depot is located in.

Drive Time

The updated By-law also adds a definition of “Drive Time”, which is referred to as:

“Drive Time” means the length of time it takes to travel by motorized vehicle travelling on Public Roads at the prescribed speed limit in average driving conditions as calculated by the BCMB using the method adopted by the BCMB from time to time.

This term will be used in the proposed amendments to Section 3.6 and used by BCMB Management within its Depot Siting Tool to assess the number of Albertans covered by a current or proposed service area.

Depot By-law Section 3 Amendments: Number and Locations of Depots

Section 3.3

The Depot By-law, Section 3.3, was amended to reflect increased depot efficiency. Previously, the by-law mandated one depot per 40,000 residents in a Metro Area. Following stakeholder feedback and a review by the Depot Siting Review Committee, the calculation was revised to one depot per 45,000 residents in a Metro Municipality. This adjustment recognizes advancements in depot technology and operational efficiencies, enabling existing depots to effectively manage higher container volumes, thus maintaining service levels with fewer locations.

Section 3.6

Section 3.6, concerning depot placement in Rural Areas, was also amended. The previous by-law prohibited new permits for depots within a 24-kilometer driving distance of an existing rural depot, or within a 10-kilometer driving distance of an existing urban or metro depot. The revised Section 3.6 now stipulates that, unless otherwise directed by the Board, no new permit may be issued in a Rural Municipality if there are fewer than 3,000 people residing within a 20-minute drive-time of a proposed depot location. This amendment, subject to the discretion of the BCMB, shifts the focus from simple distance measurements to population density and accessibility, reflecting a more calculated and methodical approach to depot siting in rural communities.

About Changes to By-laws

The BCMB’s Depot Siting Committee’s work is to enhance the effectiveness of Alberta’s Common Collection System by ensuring adequate depot coverage and maximizing system efficiency.

All the BCMB’s committees actively review processes, policies, and procedures to ensure alignment with the BCMB’s regulatory mandate and industry best practices, with the purpose of supporting small businesses, reducing environmental impacts, ensuring strong governance, managing risks, improving services for Albertans and stakeholders, and fostering innovation across the beverage container recycling system.