

NOTICE

TO: Alberta Depots

FROM: Beverage Container Management Board (BCMB)

DATE: July 3, 2025

RE: **Additions and Grey Area Containers in Interpretation of Beverage Container Policy**

Key Facts:

- Non-Alcoholic, Non-Concentrate Drink Mixes are now considered deposit-bearing
- Beverages with alcohol that need dilution (e.g., concentrated alcoholic mixers) will continue to be accepted
- Flavor additives and enhancers still exempt
- Exemption for infant formula specifically applies to products for infants aged 0-12 months
- Dairy alternatives are treated the same as dairy products

Key Dates

- **July 1, 2025:** the date that new containers will be accepted

Dear Alberta Depots,

Beverage Container Management Board (BCMB) is issuing important updates to the [Interpretation of Beverage Container Policy](#). These updates are crucial for clarifying which containers are regulated under the Beverage Container Recycling Regulation (BCRR) and will help streamline operations and reduce confusion at your depot.

Established in 2009 with the inclusion of dairy products, the original Interpretation Policy sought to clarify which containers were deposit-bearing. Over time, BCMB has identified "grey area containers" that require further clarification.

The original policy, established in 2009 with the inclusion of dairy, has guided our efforts. However, ongoing experience has highlighted "grey area containers" that require more precise definitions. These policy amendments provide the

necessary clarity for your staff when accepting or rejecting containers. The updated policy addresses these confusing areas to ensure consistent application of the rules. It's important to note that many of these containers were already being accepted or registered in the system based on past practices.

Key Amendments and Actions Required:

- **Non-Alcoholic, Non-Concentrate Drink Mixes**

These are now considered deposit-bearing beverages, aligning them with alcoholic drink mixes (e.g., liqueurs) already in the system. You SHOULD accept non-alcoholic, non-concentrate drink mix containers for deposit. An example of a non-alcoholic, non-concentrate drink mix is a margarita mix (example images on page 3).

- **Alcoholic vs. Non-Alcoholic Containers Requiring Dilution**

Beverages with alcohol that need dilution (e.g., concentrated alcoholic mixers) will continue to be accepted. However, non-alcoholic beverages requiring dilution to consume will remain exempt. Continue to accept the alcoholic variants. Do NOT accept non-alcoholic concentrated/dilutable drink products for deposit.

- **Flavor Additives and Enhancers**

Items such as coffee syrups and concentrated water additives are explicitly confirmed as exempt from the deposit system. Do NOT accept these items for deposit.

- **Infant Formula Exemption:**

The exemption for infant formula now specifically applies to products for infants aged 0-12 months. This maintains current practice with clearer policy language. Do NOT accept infant formula containers (0-12 months) for deposit.

- **Dairy Alternatives**

Dairy alternatives like oat creamer and almond milk are now explicitly mentioned as being treated the same as dairy products. This is a clarification, not a change in practice, as these containers have been part of the system since 2009. Continue current practices; no change is required.

These policy updates will assist your staff with clearer guidelines, reducing uncertainty at the point of collection. BCMB appreciates your diligent work in managing the container recycling system. Please ensure your staff are fully aware of these changes.

The BCMB Registrations team (registrations@bcmab.ca) is available to assist you with any questions regarding these policy updates and registration requirements. Your cooperation ensures the continued efficiency and success of Alberta's beverage container recycling system.



NOTICE (continued)

Examples of a non-alcoholic, non-concentrate drink mix containers:

