

# BEVERAGE CONTAINER REGISTRATION

What Manufacturers,  
Distributors and Retailers  
Need to Know



BEVERAGE CONTAINER MANAGEMENT BOARD



## ABOUT THE BCMB

The Beverage Container Management Board (BCMB) is responsible for ensuring the collection and recycling of beverage containers throughout Alberta. We work to ensure that Albertans have access to a convenient, innovative and cost-effective system for recycling their used beverage containers.

All ready-to-serve beverage containers are required to be registered with the BCMB prior to selling and/or distributing in Alberta.

Registration ensures that beverage containers are recyclable and accepted at all Alberta Depots for a refund of the deposit paid at the time of purchase:

- A minimum of 10 cents for beverage containers one litre and under, or
- A minimum of 25 cents for beverage containers over one litre.

### **Non-System Beverage Containers**

A non-system beverage container is a container that has not been registered by the BCMB and is not deposit bearing. These include:

- Out-of-province beverage containers (not sold or distributed in Alberta) that may be identified in the *Rejected Containers* tab of the BCMB Portal;
- Beverage containers that are exempt from the Regulation or not yet included (pending Registration Review); and
- Off-spec containers (beverage containers that have not been filled or used and therefore are not registered for sale as ready-to-serve beverages in Alberta).

Non-system beverage containers can lead to frustration and confusion for consumers and Depot staff when they are brought to a Depot and a deposit cannot be refunded. This can affect sales for retailers as well.



**Manufacturers, Distributors and Retailers can be penalized for selling and/or distributing non-system beverage containers. Failure to register beverage containers can result in fines up to \$500,000 for a corporation or up to \$50,000 for an individual. Non-system beverage containers are required to be removed from store shelves to ensure compliance.**

All non-system beverage containers found at Alberta depots are shown on the BCMB Portal under the:

- *Pending Containers* tab  
[portal.bcmb.ab.ca/UnregisteredProduct](http://portal.bcmb.ab.ca/UnregisteredProduct)
- *Rejected Containers* tab  
[portal.bcmb.ab.ca/UnregisteredProduct/Index\\_Rejected](http://portal.bcmb.ab.ca/UnregisteredProduct/Index_Rejected)





## MANUFACTURERS & DISTRIBUTORS

A **Manufacturer\*** is defined in the Beverage Container Recycling Regulation as:

- A person who manufactures a beverage and includes;
  - A person who carries on the business of filling containers with a beverage, and
  - A person who imports a beverage in a container into Alberta for the purpose of distribution or sale in Alberta.

***\*Distributors and Retailers can be deemed a Manufacturer if they conduct the business as described above.***

### Registration Steps for Non-Alcoholic Non-Cannabis Registrants

#### BCMB Requirements

- \$60.00 non-refundable registration fee.
- Copy of the Alberta Incorporation Certificate or Extra-Provincial Registration Certificate.
- Initial registration through the BCMB Portal at [portal.bcmb.ab.ca/login](http://portal.bcmb.ab.ca/login).
- Signed Manufacturer Agreement.

#### Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation (ABCRC) Requirements

- Refundable, initial deposit of \$5,000.00 or a three-month sales forecast (whichever is greater).
- Signed Collection System Agent (CSA) Agreement.

After completing all BCMB and ABCRC requirements, the company will be approved as a registrant.

### Registration Steps for Alcoholic and Cannabis Registrants

#### BCMB Requirements

- Alcoholic – Agent Number with the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission (AGLC) is required.
- Cannabis – Licensed Producer (LP) Contract Number from AGLC is required.
- \$60.00 non-refundable registration fee.
- Initial registration through the BCMB Portal at [portal.bcmb.ab.ca/login](http://portal.bcmb.ab.ca/login).

#### AGLC Requirements

- All AGLC requirements are to be met. The AGLC's requirements can be found on their website at [aglc.ca](http://aglc.ca).

After completing all BCMB and AGLC's requirements, a company will be approved as a registrant.

### Registering Beverage Containers

All beverage containers are required to be registered through the BCMB Portal. The BCMB has 10 business days from the date submitted to approve the registrations. The first beverage container registration is free, and each individual registration is \$10.00.

The BCMB website contains registration information for both non-refillable beverage containers and refillable beverage containers. Be sure to follow the proper steps for the type of container you wish to register.

Only individual beverage containers are required to be registered, not packages or cases. Anything that differs between brand, flavour, size, material and/or UPC (if applicable) would be considered a separate beverage container and is required to be registered separately.



## RETAILERS

A **Retailer\*** is defined in the Beverage Container Recycling Regulation as:

- A person who sells beverages in containers to consumers.

***\*Retailers can be deemed a Manufacturer if they conduct the business as per the Manufacturer definition.***

### What You Need to Know

- Ask Manufacturer/Distributors for Alberta Registration Numbers on all beverage containers prior to selling and/or distributing.
- Refuse to sell and/or distribute beverage containers without Alberta Registration Numbers.
- The Retailer is responsible for registering their company and beverage containers if they wish to sell and/or distribute beverage containers that are not currently registered with the BCMB.
- Advise any Manufacturer/Distributor with non-system beverage containers to contact the BCMB for information on registration.

### Advertising of Deposit Policy

The Advertising of Deposit Policy states that all retail locations where beverage containers are sold and/or distributed in Alberta must clearly identify the deposit amount for the container, separate from the price of the product. The Policy requires:

- Shelf labels on shelves to clearly identify refundable deposit of either 10 cents or 25 cents (depending on size).
- The deposit amount to be listed on receipts separate from the price of the beverage container.
- The Container Recycling Fee (CRF) can be shown separately on receipts or included in the price of the beverage container.



## Beverage Containers by the Numbers

- Almost 2.5 billion beverage products are sold and/or distributed in Alberta every year.
- Over 2 billion beverage containers are returned to Alberta's Depots for a refund and recycling annually.
- Over 160,000 different beverage containers are registered for sale and/or distribution in Alberta.
- There are more than 200 Depots in Alberta.





## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Refer to the BCMB's website at [www.bcmb.ab.ca](http://www.bcmb.ab.ca) for further details around manufacturing, selling and distributing beverage containers in Alberta. To view relevant links, forms and information, click on the ***Selling/Distributing Beverages*** tab on the BCMB website.

### Registrations Department Contact Information

Tel: 780-424-3193 or Toll-free: 1-888-424-7671  
E-mail: [registrations@bcmb.ab.ca](mailto:registrations@bcmb.ab.ca)  
Registration Portal: [portal.bcmb.ab.ca/product](http://portal.bcmb.ab.ca/product)  
BCMB website: [www.bcmb.ab.ca](http://www.bcmb.ab.ca)

Attn: Registrations Department  
Beverage Container Management Board  
100, 8616 - 51 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T6E 6E6

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