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The purpose of this policy is to provide clarification regarding the containers regulated by the BCMB effective June 1, 2009.

Section 1(1) b of the Beverage Container Recycling Regulation (the “Regulation”) states: “‘beverage’ means any liquid that is a ready-to-serve drink, and is not exempt from this Regulation.”

With the removal of the exemption for “milk and milk containers” from the Regulation effective June 1, 2009, all ready-to-serve milk products fall within the definition of “beverage” and the containers associated with those products are regulated by the BCMB.

The removal of this exemption caused some uncertainty in the application of the Regulation. In addition, the Alberta Dairy Council requested confirmation that cream containers and buttermilk containers would be included in the collection system even though cream and buttermilk might generally not be considered ready-to-serve drinks.

For the purposes of the Regulation the BCMB interprets ready-to-serve drinks to include meal supplements, cream, buttermilk, fluid coffee creamers, and drinkable yogurts in addition to those products sold as beverages such as water, juice, energy drinks, carbonated beverages, beer and wine which were regulated prior to June 1, 2009.

The BCMB does not consider the following products to be ready-to-serve drinks for the purposes of the Regulation:

1. Any product, packaged in either a frozen or non-frozen format, which requires one or more additives to transform it into a ready-to-serve drink (“Concentrates”);
2. Infant formulas;
3. Sour cream;
4. Non-fluid coffee additives;
5. Pre-whipped whipping cream;
6. Single portion cream containers with a volume less than 30 ml; and
7. Industrial milk bladders with a volume of 9 litres and greater.

This policy may be amended from time to time as further clarification is required.