



Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme

Exemptions and Voluntary Return Point FAQs

If you are looking for general information on whether you might be eligible for an exemption or a voluntary return and how to apply, please read our application guideline documents.

- Proximity exemption guidance [here](#)
- Environmental health exemption guidance [here](#)
- Voluntary return point guidance [here](#)

Completing your application

Is there a deadline for applying?

There is no deadline for you to submit an application. Applications will remain open when the scheme goes live on 1 July 2022.

If you are not granted an exemption before the scheme starts, you will have to allow yourself time to prepare to become a return point for the scheme going live on 1 July 2022. As a result, you should make sure you leave yourself sufficient time to prepare. Find out more about retailer obligations [here](#).

Can I save my application and come back to it?

You must complete your application in one sitting, as there is no option to save your application and return to it at a later point. As a result, you are strongly advised to gather all the information that is required first, draft your text in a separate document and copy and paste when you are confident you have all the information ready to submit. There is no time limit for completing the form, it will not time out.

I have multiple stores – do I need to submit more than one application?

If you have multiple stores, you would be advised to speak to us first and we can advise on how to submit your application. Please contact us at: DRS.Enquiries@zerowastescotland.org.uk

How do I estimate the number of containers an alternative return point will receive?

Once Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme starts, return points looking for an exemption will be able to enter the average number of eligible bottles and cans they receive.

For now, please enter the approximate number of eligible bottles and cans you sell on a monthly basis.

I've changed my mind – can I / how do I revoke my exemption?

If you wish to withdraw your application, or to revoke your previously granted exemption, please contact DRS.Applications@zerowastescotland.org.uk

Proximity exemptions

Do I have to apply for an exemption?

If you are required to be a return point operator under Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme but wish to be exempt and meet the criteria, you must complete an exemption application. Find out more about retailer obligations [here](#).

Voluntary Return Point

Am I allowed to offer a return point if I wish to?

Anyone who wishes to operate a return point that doesn't have a statutory duty to do so must apply to become one. You can find out more and apply on our voluntary return point page.

If you are granted an exemption

If I get an exemption, do I still need to charge a deposit?

Yes. All drinks sold in scheme containers must carry a 20p deposit. If you receive an exemption to act as a return point, you will still have to meet your other requirements as part of the scheme. These include:

- Charging the deposit when selling in-scope products
- Making it clear the container is part of the scheme
- Displaying the deposit value separately from the product price

Support with your application

When will I hear back?

Scottish Ministers aim to provide a response to all applications within 35 days. We may contact you for more information within that time.

Can you partner me with an alternative return point?

Zero Waste Scotland is not able to recommend or partner you with an alternative return point.

Can I submit a paper application?

Yes, you can. Please email us at DRS.Enquiries@zerowastescotland.org.uk

I am the manager of a retail park, shopping centre or transport hub. Can I help the retail units on my site?

To help the retail units on your site, you could consider becoming an alternative return point. To find out more about becoming an alternative return point, please visit our dedicated page about voluntary return point applications [here](#).

I have a question – who can I speak to?

All enquiries should be directed to DRS.Enquiries@zerowastescotland.org.uk