



Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme

Proximity exemption: are you eligible?

You may apply for a Proximity Exemption if you have an agreement with another nearby return point to take back containers on your behalf, it is easily accessible, and it is open at similar times to you.

Before planning your application, ask yourself the following questions.

Is there an alternative return point within 400 metres of you?

To qualify for a proximity exemption, there must be an alternative return point within 400 metres of you (calculated as a pedestrian would travel, not as a straight-line distance). This is to make sure that your customers have easy access to another place to return their empty bottles and cans.

How will I know?

The alternative return point could be another shop that sells drinks in bottles and cans to take away, or it could be a voluntary return point. You can easily check the distance using Google Maps, or another online map tool. You will need to include this within your application.

If you are based in, for example, a shopping centre or transport hub, there could be a voluntary return point operated for the benefit of all the shops there that you can name as your alternative return point. You could contact the centre manager/landlord to find out if they plan to operate a voluntary return point.

Is it open at the same times as you?

The alternative return point must be open at similar times as you. This is to make sure your customers can easily access a return point.

Your opening hours don't have to be exactly the same, but the alternative return point should be open at least 80% of the time that you are. We will make an allowance where the difference in opening hours is in the evening or early morning.

Alternative return point consent and accessibility

You will need to get the consent of the alternative return point and you will need to confirm this within your application.



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You will also have to prepare evidence which demonstrates the accessibility of the alternative return point. If you have made any alterations (e.g. wheelchair access) to improve the accessibility of your premises, these must also be present at the alternative return point.

You can read more in our application guidelines.

Zero Waste Scotland will assess your application against the eligibility criteria and pass it to the Scottish Ministers to take a decision