



Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme

Voluntary return point: are you eligible?

You can apply to become a voluntary return point as long as you can prove that you have sufficient operational and financial plans in place to set up and run the return point for at least one year.

Before beginning your application, please ask yourself the following questions.

How many items will be returned to my return point each month?

You need to show that you have carried out analysis of the number of containers you estimate will be returned in the average month. This could be based on factors such as: the sales volume of exempted retailers who you will be acting as alternative return point for, or, in the case of a VRP in a transport hub, the number of train/ferry passengers, and footfall through the hub, for example.

If we do not agree with the estimate you have provided, we will not immediately refuse your application but will take this into account when considering whether your plans for operating a return point are sufficiently realistic.

Do I know how my return point will operate?

You should be able to tell us how you expect to manage your estimated number of returns, whether it be manually or by a reverse vending machine (RVM).

If you plan to operate a mostly manual return point, you should know how many members of staff you will require (whether paid staff, volunteers, or a mixture).

If you are considering automatic returns, you should make sure you have the specifications of the RVM and know that the machine is suitable for your premises and the number of expected returns.

You should be able to tell us where returned containers are going to be stored.

You should consider whether your premises are accessible, and that you know how people will use your return service.



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Do I have the finances to set up and run a return point?

To approve an application we need to see evidence that you have enough financial resources to set up and operate a return point for at least one year.

As a return-point operator you will be eligible to claim a reasonable handling fee covering certain costs from the producers and/or scheme administrator(s) that manage the scheme. You can read more about the handling fee [here](#). However, you must show that you have funds in place to pay for your startup costs and that you can cover costs not reimbursed through the handling fee.

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.