



2017 Amendments to *The Environmental Management and Protection Act Regulations*

Two changes to Saskatchewan's beverage container recycling program take effect April 1, 2017:

The beverage container recycling program will now include "ready-to-serve" milk beverage containers, in the same deposit-return model as other beverage containers accepted at SARCAN

Deposits will increase for all existing plastic, metal, paper-based polycoat and aseptic containers currently accepted at SARCAN. Only glass deposits remain unchanged.

The provincial beverage container recycling program is extremely successful, seeing 86 per cent of sold beverage containers collected and recycled through SARCAN in 2016. Accepting milk containers at SARCAN's 72 depots across the province will increase beverage return rates and divert waste from landfills, particularly in communities where municipal blue bin recycling programs are not available.



About milk container recycling

The addition of milk containers will result in consistent refundable deposit rates for all designated beverage containers sold in the province and will keep milk containers out of our landfills.

Benefits of including milk containers in SARCAN recycling include:

- Customers in many rural areas of the province, where there is currently no access to municipal milk container recycling, will again be able to recycle their milk containers at SARCAN.
- Residents still have the option to place their deposit containers in the curbside bin if they prefer, but will forfeit their deposit. Milk containers placed in municipal blue bins will find their way to SARCAN through municipal contractors. In order to receive the refund you've paid, containers should be taken directly to SARCAN depots.
- Although milk containers were previously included in the province's Multi-Material Recycling Program, higher deposit rates will provide an incentive for consumers to return their containers for refund, which will increase return rates while diverting waste from landfills.
- Confusion currently exists surrounding fluid milk containers (which are non-deposit), milk alternative containers (which are deposit), and products with milk and milk derivative ingredients (which may or may not be deposit containers). This decision aims to decrease public and retailer confusion regarding Saskatchewan's deposit beverage system.
- This will standardize the treatment of milk with other beverages, reduce confusion for consumers, retailers and producers and enhance milk container recycling and waste diversion rates within the province.

Accepted containers

- Milk
- Buttermilk
- Cream
- Fluid coffee creamers
- Lactose-free milk products
- Drinkable yogurt

Non-accepted containers

- 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")
- Infant formula
- Meal replacements*
- Yogurt and yogurt tubes
- Non-fluid coffee additives
- Pre-whipped whipping cream
- Baking ingredients such as evaporated or condensed milk
- Single portion cream containers with a volume less than 30ml
- Industrial milk bladders

*Meal Replacement must be visible on the container label. Labelling requirements are defined by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

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In addition to the refundable deposit, milk containers will be subject to an environmental handling charge of 6 cents for plastic containers, 7 cents for glass and 3 cents for aseptic and paper-based polycoat (cartons). An environmental handling charge paid by consumers covers the environmental cost of collecting, consolidating and recycling milk containers.



About refundable deposit changes

This is the first change to deposit amounts since 1992. Higher deposit rates will provide an incentive for consumers to return their containers for refund, thereby diverting waste from landfills. The table below shows the change in deposit amounts for each of the container types.

Container Type		Previous Deposit		Deposit as of April 1, 2017	
	Aluminum/tin/metal containers	1 - 999 ml 1 L and over	\$0.10 \$0.20	1 - 999 ml 1 L and over	\$0.10 \$0.25
	Plastic containers (also now includes milk containers)	1 - 999 ml 1 L and over	\$0.10 \$0.20	1 - 999 ml 1 L and over	\$0.10 \$0.25
	Refillable beer bottles (unchanged)	341 ml	\$0.05	341 ml	\$0.05
	Glass containers (unchanged)	1 ml – 300 ml 301 ml – 999 ml 1 L and over	\$0.10 \$0.20 \$0.40	1 ml – 300 ml 301 ml – 999 ml 1 L and over	\$0.10 \$0.20 \$0.40
	Cartons and tetra boxes (shelf-stable aseptic/polycoat)	All sizes	\$0.05	1 – 999 ml 1 L and over	\$0.10 \$0.25

Implementation

The deposit increase, the addition of deposits and environmental handling fees on milk containers, and the acceptance of milk containers at SARCAN all launch on April 1, 2017.

- In the interest of ensuring that only deposit-paid containers are issued refunds, only milk containers with best before dates after April 1, 2017 will be accepted by SARCAN.
- SARCAN already has the systems and infrastructure in place to handle the addition of milk container recycling. SARCAN anticipates a smooth transition as milk containers are added to the deposit program. This change will result in increased beverage container recycling and waste diversion within Saskatchewan. New containers and increased returns also present opportunities for job creation within SARCAN's province-wide system of 72 depots and two processing plants in 64 Saskatchewan communities.
- A short implementation time period is in the interest of limiting stockpiling of lower or no deposit paid containers.
- All businesses that participate in the beverage container program will be required to update their point-of-sale devices to reflect the increase in deposits and the addition of milk to the program to meet the April 1 implementation date.
- Distributors and first sellers will be encouraged to work with SARCAN to register any newly obligated beverage containers as soon as possible. Please visit this link: sarc.ca/pages/beverage_manufacturerdistributor_information.

For more information, please contact the Ministry of Environment toll-free at 1-800-567-4224 or centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca.