

Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) Event Management Guidelines

Purpose

This guide provides county councils with guidelines and recommendations on how to support and manage events participating in the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS). The guidance is tailored based on event size and type, with scalable solutions for effective waste management, compliance, public engagement, and recycling support.

Event Categories & Support Framework

1. All Events

For all events regardless of size where there are vendors or retailers selling in scope material (beverage containers with a capacity between 0.15L and 3L, manufactured in PET, aluminium or steel) the event organisers should understand the current requirements in relation to the Separate Collection (Deposit Return Scheme) Regulations 2024.

Under the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) Regulations (S.I. No.33/2024 Separate Collection Regulations 2024), all retailers have obligations including but not limited to, ensuring that only drinks containers from Producers registered with the DRS are being sold, as well as ensuring that the payment of the deposit is itemised on the proof of payment and clearly displayed as a separate charge from the purchase price.

All retailers of in scope products (beverage containers with a capacity between 0.15L and 3L, manufactured in PET, aluminium or steel) must

- A. Be registered with Re-Turn (the approved body under the Regulations),
- B. Must have and display a certificate of exemption issued by Re-Turn for the take back of empty in-scope bottles;
- C. Ensure that only in-scope drink bottles and cans displaying the Re-Turn logo are made available for purchase during the event.

Re-turn, through the Enforcement team, also has an obligation under the Regulations to assess retailer compliance, identify areas for improvement and, where necessary, refer issues of non-compliance to local authorities for further action.

2. Community Events < 10,000 attendees

These may include local markets/festivals, club or camp events, charity fundraisers, local shows and fleadh's.

Event Considerations:

- Event organisers will need to consider volunteers to manage the collection of in scope materials (bottles and cans) at the event.

- Drinks containers from 150ml – 3 litres featuring the Re-turn logo are included in the Scheme
- Drinks containers from 150ml – 3 litres featuring the Re-turn logo are included in the Scheme
- Drinks containers must be returned empty and undamaged
- Clear signage and posters at events help the event attendees understand that the event is supporting Re-turn and whatever charities/community initiatives in attendance. There are digital assets on the return website that can be used to advertise the event [Community Fundraising Initiatives - Re-Turn.](#)
- There are over 2,000 community initiatives around the country, these can be located on the Re-turn website by following the link [Community Fundraising Initiatives - Re-Turn.](#) By offering volunteering opportunities to community initiatives the funds raised through local events help achieve a positive impact in communities.

Re-turn Support

Note: A general notice period of 6 weeks should be provided for Re-turn support

- Re-turn can provide collection bags for the volunteers to collect in scope material if support is required, please fill out the Community Support Enquiry form on the website [Community Support Enquiry Form - Re-Turn](#)
- There are Community Resource Packs on the Re-turn website [Community Fundraising Initiatives - Re-Turn](#). These can be used at events to promote the recycling initiative.
- All in scope material must be processed through a reverse vending machine to ensure they are compacted, uncontaminated, and suitable for recycling. As a 'Return to Retail' initiative, containers should be returned to a store where deposit vouchers can be exchanged for cash.
- We recommend partnering with a local retailer. Arrangements can be made for a convenient time with the retailer to process bottles and cans through the machine. This is usually done before opening or after closing, ensuring exclusive access. Some retailers may also provide a staff member to assist, but this can be agreed upon directly.
- A list of Retailers where collected in-scope materials can be returned is on the Re-turn website [Home - Re-Turn](#).

3. Sector, Music, Festival Events < 20,000 attendees

Note: A minimum notice period of 6 weeks should be provided for Re-turn support for this event size, but it is recommended that event organisers contact the re-turn teams as early as possible.

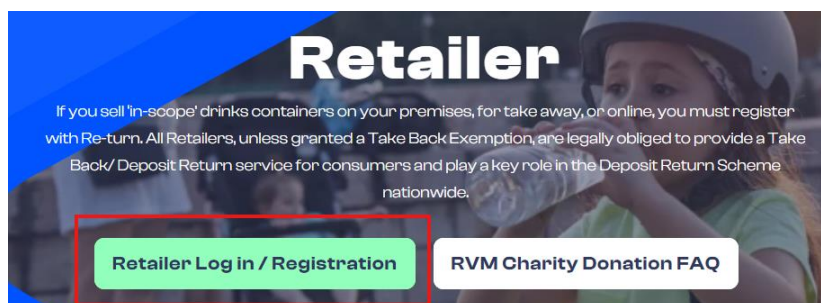
These may include Agri events, marathons, music festivals or other cultural festivals with attendance >10,000 and <20,000.

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Re-turn Support

- Re-turn can provide Bins (on loan) and bags for larger events and collections can also be arranged once over **20 Re-turn bags** are filled with in-scope materials. Bags contaminated with waste cannot be collected and therefore would not count in the 20-bag collection threshold.
- For any event requiring collections, the event will need to complete the registration process on the Re-turn website [Retailer - Re-Turn](#) and select the Retailer Log in/Registration button as shown below.



- Please fill out the Community Support Enquiry form on the website [Community Support Enquiry Form - Re-Turn](#) if support is required for your event.

4. Large Events > 20,000 attendees

Note: A minimum notice period of 12 weeks as large Events require Re-turn to complete a feasibility assessment prior to any planning of these events. The feasibility assessment is based on information gathered regarding the event. Please see Event Considerations below which outline the information required to complete.

These may include Music/Concerts, Large Festivals, Venues, Sporting Events with expected attendance > 20,000

Event Considerations:

- Support for Large event needs to be assessed by Re-turn prior to any planning commencing. **Please contact:** events@re-turn.ie

- The following information will need to be provided to Re-turn to conduct a feasibility assessment:
 - Location & type of the event
 - Date(s) the event will be held
 - Estimated attendance & attendee demographic
 - Number of vendors selling in-scope containers
 - Are vendors selling alcohol or only non-alcoholic beverages
 - Can attendees bring in-scope containers not sold on-site
 - Estimated number of in-scope containers available for collection
 - Will the event organiser provide any volunteers to help man / police bins
 - Beneficiary of deposit value for collected containers (i.e. charity or other)
 - Is the event site accessible to trucks and vans for delivery and collection
 - Are there time restrictions with respect to accessing the event site
 - Are there special passes or clearance required to access the site
 - Is there a secure storage area on the event site
 - For a larger event is there power available in staging / storage locations
 - Is there accommodation for staff / volunteers during the event
 - Who is providing general waste services for the event
 - Has the waste provider been informed Re-turn are operating at the event
 - How many waste stations are planned for the event
 - Confirm Re-turn bins can be co-located at all planned waste stations
 - How quickly does the event site need to be cleared

General Guidance for Event Organisers:

- Identify best locations for donation points at your site / event. These may be entrances / exits or high visibility locations
- Provide visitors with clear guidance on the location of Re-turn bins with prominent signage and messaging including directions
- If fundraising, ensure visitors know the beneficiary of all funds raised with the use of clear signage / posters / messaging
- Encourage the use of Re-turn bins and support for the event fundraiser (if applicable) through social media or other channels
- Use our starter pack of digital assets to promote your initiative ([Events Pack](#)) in the digital pack you will find files for print of material including posters / location signage / calls for support
- In our experience Re-turn bins must be manned to prevent the contamination of collected material- Remember bags containing in-scope containers have a monetary value and should be stored in a secure location
- For large events where Re-turn have scheduled collections of material, Material must be in the allocated Re-turn bags and only contain in scope materials. Contaminated bags need to be decontaminated prior to collection.