Translation from Finnish
Legally binding only in Finnish and Swedish
Ministry of the Environment, Finland

Government Decree on the Return System for Beverage Containers (526/2013; amendments up to 1308/2025 included)

Section 1
Scope of application

This Decree applies to the return system for beverage containers referred to in section 68 of the Waste Act (646/2011).

Section 2
Amount of deposit

The minimum deposits on beverage containers included in the return system for beverage containers shall be:

1) EUR 0.15 for metal containers;
2) EUR 0.20 for plastic containers larger than 0.35 litres but smaller than 1.0 litre;
3) EUR 0.40 for plastic containers of at least 1.0 litre;
4) EUR 0.10 for containers other than those referred to in paragraphs 1–3.

Section 3
Re-use and recycling obligation

The operator maintaining the return system for beverage containers shall organise the reception, re-use and recycling of beverage containers included in the system in such a way that the number of containers returned every year in relation to the number of containers placed on the market by the members of the return system is as follows:

1) at least 90 per cent by weight of reusable beverage containers for re-use;

2) at least 90 per cent by weight of beverage containers designed for one refill for recycling.

The operator undertaking to maintain a return system for beverage containers shall fulfil its obligation under subsection 1 concerning the attainment of the re-use and recycling rate by the end of the third full calendar year following the start of the operations.

The provisions of section 9 of the Government Decree on Packaging and Packaging Waste (1029/2021) concerning the calculation of the recycling rate apply to the assessment of the attainment of the targets laid down in subsection 1. (1322/2022)

Provisions on the separate collection obligation for single-use plastic beverage bottles with a capacity of up to three litres are laid down in section 10a and on the minimum content requirement for recycled plastic in section 6a of the Decree specified in subsection 3. (1322/2022)

Section 4 (1322/2022)
Report on financial arrangements and action plan for organising re-use and waste management

By the end of June each year, an operator maintaining a return system for beverage containers that accepts members shall submit to the Finnish Supervisory Agency the report referred to in section 64, subsection 1 of the Waste Act on its sufficient financial arrangements and an action plan for organising re-use and waste management. (1308/2025)

The report on sufficient financial arrangements shall include the adopted financial statement for the most recent financial period, the budget for the current financial period and, where necessary, an interim financial statement or a financial statement forecast. If the said documents cannot be submitted, other reliable proof shall be provided of sufficient financial arrangements.

Section 4a (1322/2022)
Payment contributions of producers

Provisions on the criteria for the payment contributions of producers and their adaptation are laid down in section 63a of the Waste Act.

When determining administrative charges, the adaptation of payment contributions referred to in subsection 2 of the said section is not used as a criterion. In respect of administrative charges derogation is allowed from the provision of paragraph 1 of the said section on making payments pro rata based on the quantity of products placed on the market by the producer. In such cases, administrative charges shall be determined in such a way that their share is not unreasonably high compared with the quantity of beverage containers placed on the market by the producer and with the payments arising from their waste management and other system maintenance operations.

Provisions on the cost responsibility of producers for certain waste management and cleaning-up measures carried out by municipalities are laid down in section 48b of the Waste Act.

Section 5 (1322/2022)
Application for acceptance into the producer register

The application of an operator maintaining a return system for beverage containers for acceptance into the producer register shall contain:
1) the name, contact details and business identity code of the operator;
2) the name and contact details of the contact person;
3) data on the single-use beverage containers containing plastic referred to in paragraph 3 of the Annex to the Waste Act placed on the market by the producers belonging to the return system and an estimate of their quantity in tonnes per year;

4) information on the amount of deposit;
5) information on the nominal volume and material of the beverage container;
6) information on the beverages sold in the containers;
7) information on the markings and symbols used on the beverage containers to organise the return;
8) an estimate of the quantity of beverage containers placed on the market in number of pieces and in tonnes by packaging material;
9) information on the market area and distribution methods;
10) information on the reception, re-use, recycling and other waste management of the beverage containers;
11) an account of the provision of information related to the operation of the return system for beverage containers;
12) an account of agreements concerning the organisation of re-use and waste management and of the environmental permits and management systems for environmental matters of the contractual partners;
13) the plan and schedule for compliance with the re-use or recycling obligation;
14) the self-monitoring plan;
15) the date on which the application was made;
16) a declaration stating that the information provided is true;
17) the names and business identity codes of the authorised representatives belonging to the return system and the dates on which they joined the return system as well as information on the provider of the authorisation and on the producers that in the absence of the authorisation would be responsible for the producer responsibility obligations in respect of the products to which the authorisation applies.

The application of an operator maintaining a return system for beverage containers that accepts members shall contain:
1) information corresponding to subsection 1;
2) the names and business identity codes of the members belonging to the return system and date of joining the return system;

3) the rules of the return system and, where necessary, another account of the division of obligations between the members and of how a new member can agree on the carrying out the obligations with the operator maintaining the return system;
4) a report on the sufficient financial arrangements of the operator maintaining the return system for the appropriate organisation of its activities.

Section 6
Notification of changes in activities

The notification referred to in section 106 of the Waste Act concerning substantial changes in activities and a new member that has joined the return system or a member that has resigned from it shall be submitted within a month of any change.

Provisions on when the report on sufficient financial arrangements and the securing of activities and the action plan if the activities of the return system for beverage containers substantially change shall be submitted are laid down in section 64 of the Waste Act. (1322/2022)

Section 7 (1322/2022)
Notification of monitoring data

By the end of June of each year, the operator maintaining a return system for beverage containers shall notify the Finnish Supervisory Agency of the following data on its activities during the previous year: (1308/2025)
1) the quantity of beverage containers placed on the Finnish market in number of pieces and in tonnes by the type of material and packaging;
2) the quantity of single-use plastic beverage bottles with a capacity of up to three litres and their caps and lids placed on the Finnish market, the content of recycled plastic used in their production and the quantity of separately collected discarded plastic beverage bottles referred to above and their caps and lids in accordance

with the provisions of section 19, subsection 3 of the Government Decree on Packaging and Packaging Waste;

3) the quantity of containers received in the return system broken down in accordance with paragraph 1;
4) the quantity of containers delivered for re-use and recycling in number of pieces and in tonnes by the type of material and the name and location of the recipient facility;
5) the assessment and calculation principles for data referred to in paragraphs 1–4 and an assessment of the reliability of the data;
6) an account of the provision of information referred to in section 51 of the Waste Act related to the operation of the return system for beverage containers;
7) an account of the fulfilment of the re-use and recycling obligations and, where necessary, a revised plan for measures by which the obligations can be fulfilled, including an estimated schedule;
8) information on the measures and audits required by the self-monitoring plan.

Section 7a (1322/2022)
Self-monitoring

The plan for self-monitoring referred to in section 53a of the Waste Act shall contain:

1) an account of the compilation of the monitoring data referred to in section 7 of this Decree and an assessment of the reliability of the data and a plan for improving the reliability of the data;
2) an account of the fulfilment of the cost responsibility referred to in section 48b of the Waste Act and a plan for monitoring the costs and developing the procedure;
3) an account of the producers' payment contributions referred to in section 63a of the Waste Act and section 4a of this Decree and of the criteria for their adaptation as well as of their monitoring;
4) procedures for the regular reassessment and development of the payment contributions and the criteria for their adaptation referred to in paragraph 3;
5) a plan for the implementation and organisation of self-monitoring and for audits conducted to support self-monitoring.

Audits to support self-monitoring shall be conducted by an auditor who is an impartial third party independent of the member of the return system, operator maintaining the return system and owners of the system. The auditor shall have the necessary knowledge, skills and other qualifications for the performance of the task. Audits may be conducted in multiple parts, taking account of the special expertise of the auditor, or included in another equivalent external audit of the operations of the return system. If the operator maintaining the return system has a certified management system, the audit may be incorporated into that system.

Section 8
Entry into force

This Decree enters into force on 8 July 2013.

This Decree repeals the Government Decree on a Return System for Certain Beverage Containers (180/2005).

Entry into force and application of the amending statutes
1322/2022:

This Decree enters into force on 1 January 2023.

1308/2025:
This Decree enters into force on 1 January 2026.