

Amendment to the Austrian Waste Management Act – Circular Economy Package 2021

CHANGES FOR THE FOOD RETAIL SECTOR



QUOTAS ON RETURNABLES

The following changes apply due to the expansion of **Returnable** systems for beverage packaging:

- Final distributors in the food retail sector, incl. mail order businesses must offer
 - o from 1 January 2024 in at least 35 %
 - o from 1 January 2025 in at least 90 %
 - o until 31 December 2025 in 100 %

of their points of sale with over 400 m² beverages in returnable / reusable containers.

- The following percentages of returnable packaging must be met for each of these beverage categories: (in relation to the number of articles offered in each category)
 - o **15 % beer** (including nonalcoholic beer and beer-based mixed drinks),
 - o **15 % water** (mineral water, table water, soda water und other bottled waters; without added flavors),
 - o **10 % juice** (fruit juice, vegetable juice und nectar),
 - o **10 % soft drinks** (lemonades, flavored water, fruit- and vegetable-juice-based mixed drinks, isotonic beverages, energy drinks, tea-based drinks, e.g. ice tea, Kombucha, plant-based milk, e.g. soy milk, whey-based drinks und malt-based soft drinks) and
 - o **10 % milk** (cow-, sheep-, goat milk of all fat content levels; except for long-life milk (ultra-heat-treated milk))
- Not included in this calculation are:
 - o **Waters, juices and soft drinks** in plastic bottles or cans up to and including 0,5 l, as there will be subjected to the deposit system for disposable packaging.

ALTERNATIVE:

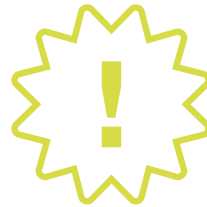
Sales quota: the quota of returnable packaging can also be met if at least 25 % of the total beverage sales volume is packaged in returnable / multi-use containers.



DEPOSIT SYSTEM FOR SINGLE-USE BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

From 2025 on a mandatory deposit system for single-use beverage containers will be enacted:

- **Deposits will apply to single-use plastic beverage bottles and can** of 0,1 to 3 liters. There will be an exception for milk.
- Deposit amount will be **25 Cent**.
- Glass bottles and beverage cartons will not be affected.
- All points of sale offering beverages will be also required to take back any beverage packaging. Some exceptions apply to small shops/businesses and bakeries.
- The deposit system will be managed by a centralized association – run by representatives of the retail sector and beverage manufacturers. The Federal Ministry for Climate Action will hold wide-ranging governance and controlling powers.



MANDATORY LABELLING REQUIREMENTS

for single-use- and returnable beverage packaging:

- Starting 1 January 2022 all entities in the food retail sector introducing beverages into the market are required to clearly label their packaging as either single-use or returnable in all points of sale larger than 400 m².
- For that the terms "EINWEG" (single-use) and "MEHRWEG" (returnable) will have to be placed in close proximity to the according beverage packaging allowing for clear allocation of the according products.
- Exception: Final distributors exclusively operating points of sales smaller than 400 m² each.
- Mail order business (including online): Information about the packaging type must be provided in a timely manner before the purchase (catalogue, website, order form).

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