



Bottle Deposit Refunds: Read the Mark During the 2026 Transition

Description

During the transition to 30 September 2026, the same drink may appear with or without the BCRS Deposit Mark. Only marked plastic or metal beverage containers from 150ml to 3 litres carry the 10-cent deposit and qualify for the refund, so the label matters more than the brand or shape.

The practical task is to identify which containers carry the deposit and obtain the refund without damaging the barcode. A sound decision separates the controlling condition from convenience, then records the evidence before money, travel, work or a deadline makes the choice harder to reverse.

Match the decision to the situation

Container has the Deposit Mark

Empty it, keep it uncrushed and return it. Confirm the condition before treating that route as settled.

Container has no Deposit Mark

No deposit refund applies; use normal recycling. Confirm the condition before treating that route as settled.

Drink was served at a Return Right F&B outlet

Follow the outlet's dine-in return arrangement. Confirm the condition before treating that route as settled.

RVM rejects a marked intact container

Keep the item and use the operator help route. Confirm the condition before treating that route as settled.

Look for the mark

[NEA BCRS guide for consumers](#) states the controlling point used here: Deposit-mark eligibility, 150ml-to-3L scope, empty and uncrushed condition, refund methods and transition dates. Brand, colour and size alone do not establish refund eligibility during transition. Check the label before keeping the container.

For look for the mark, this becomes consequential when •Container has the Deposit Mark• applies. The next move is to empty it, keep it uncrushed and return it, but only after the underlying condition has been verified and dated.

Check material and volume

Covered items are pre-packaged drinks in plastic or metal containers from 150ml to 3 litres. Exclude glass, cartons, pouches and out-of-range sizes.

For check material and volume, record the result as confirmed, pending or not applicable. If it is still pending, do not let a convenient assumption close the gap; identify the person or service that can resolve it and the last safe time to ask.

Keep the barcode readable

The machine needs an intact container and scannable code. Empty it but do not crush or flatten it.

For keep the barcode readable, this becomes consequential when •Drink was served at a Return Right F&B outlet• applies. The next move is to follow the outlet's dine-in return arrangement, but only after the underlying condition has been verified and dated.

Choose the refund method

[Return Right consumer portal](#) states the controlling point used here: The licensed scheme operator explains the label check, container preparation, return process and refund route. Available digital routes include SimplyGo EZ-Link and DBS PayLah!, subject to current service terms. Prepare the preferred account or card.

For choose the refund method, record the result as confirmed, pending or not applicable. If it is still pending, do not let a convenient assumption close the gap; identify the person or service that can resolve it and the last safe time to ask.

Separate dine-in treatment

Participating F&B outlets can take containers back without charging customers the deposit. Read the outlet signage before carrying it away.

For separate dine-in treatment, this becomes consequential when a Container has the Deposit Mark applies. The next move is to empty it, keep it uncrushed and return it, but only after the underlying condition has been verified and dated.

Use 1 October as the full transition point

From 1 October 2026, regulated products supplied in Singapore must carry the mark and deposit. Recheck NEA guidance near the date.

For use 1 october as the full transition point, record the result as confirmed, pending or not applicable. If it is still pending, do not let a convenient assumption close the gap; identify the person or service that can resolve it and the last safe time to ask.

A label-led eligibility decision tree for marked and unmarked containers

Start with Look for the mark, then test Check material and volume and Keep the barcode readable. Show the input, the condition applied and the resulting action in separate columns. If a number is calculated, retain the arithmetic; if a route is selected, retain the branch that ruled out the alternative.

Input or condition	Evidence to keep	Decision it changes
Container has the Deposit Mark	Check the label before keeping the container.	Empty it, keep it uncrushed and return it
Container has no Deposit Mark	Exclude glass, cartons, pouches and out-of-range sizes.	No deposit refund applies; use normal recycling
Drink was served at a Return Right F&B outlet	Empty it but do not crush or flatten it.	Follow the outlet's dine-in return arrangement

A 20-container household example showing a S\$2 refundable deposit total

Use Choose the refund method, Separate dine-in treatment and Use 1 October as the full transition point as the verification pass. Check the live condition, note the time checked and keep the response or document that supports the conclusion. Unknowns remain visible until resolved; they should not be replaced by a guessed price, deadline, eligibility result, service level or operating detail.

Worked example

A family buys a 24-pack during the transition. Sixteen cans carry the Deposit Mark and eight are old unmarked stock. The marked cans represent S\$1.60 of refundable deposits and should be kept intact; the other eight did not attract the deposit and should go through normal recycling. Returning all 24 to an RVM will not produce S\$2.40.

The example is a calculation or decision model, not a guarantee. Change one material input at a time, preserve the original inputs and recheck the live authority or operator page before relying on the result.

Before you commit

1. Empty it, keep it uncrushed and return it.
2. No deposit refund applies; use normal recycling.
3. Follow the outlet's dine-in return arrangement.
4. Keep the item and use the operator help route.
5. Save the date and evidence used for every material condition.
6. Stop and ask the controlling authority, operator or qualified professional if a disputed fact changes the outcome.

Name the person, present condition, service route, time sensitivity and proof of contact. Public-service help is easier to follow when the next safe step is visible and unknown eligibility is not converted into a promise.

Limits

RVM locations, refund methods and transition operations can change. Check NEA and Return Right before making a bulk trip.

For an adjacent live guide, see [Major Earthquake in Myanmar Causes Building Collapse and Widespread Tremors in Bangkok](#). If the next decision shifts to a second practical issue, [PSI vs PM2.5: Read myENV Haze Data Without Guessing](#) provides the relevant progression without duplicating this primary intent.

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