

ORDER

Pursuant to General Statutes § 22a-6

Commissioner Katherine Dykes

Effective August 2, 2022

Approval of “Other Words” Indicating a Redemption Value of a Beverage Container

I hereby approve the embossing, stamping, labeling, or securely affixing to a beverage container the words “Redemption Value” or the abbreviation “CTRV” for the purpose of identifying that such beverage container may be redeemed for a refund.

Section 22a-244 of the Connecticut General Statutes specifies beverage containers, as defined by section 22a-443 of the General Statutes, shall have a refund value of five cents. Pursuant to Public Act 21-58, on January 1, 2023, packaging containing beverages not previously subject to section 22a-244, such as certain fruit juice, coffee, tea, and sports drink containers will become subject to the requirements of that section. In addition, on January 1, 2024, Public Act 21-58 specifies that refund value will increase to ten cents.

Section 22a-244 of the Connecticut General Statutes further provides that “[e]very beverage container sold or offered for sale in this state that has a refund value . . . shall clearly indicate by embossing or by a stamp or by a label or other method securely affixed to the beverage container (1) either the refund value of the container or the words ‘return for deposit’ or ‘return for refund’ or other words as approved by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and (2) either the word ‘Connecticut’ or the abbreviation ‘Ct.’ . . .”

Beverage containers must be identified in such a way that satisfies the goals of providing the consumer, at the time of purchase and use of a beverage container, notice that it may be returned for a refund and to provide the manufacturers of such beverage containers and the bottlers of beverages sufficient flexibility to accommodate the upcoming changes in law. Therefore, in addition to the labeling options currently provided by statute, and pursuant to section 22a-244(b)(1), I hereby approve the words “Redemption Value” to be used to indicate a beverage container may be returned for a refund, in conjunction with the word “Connecticut” or abbreviation “Ct,” or simply the abbreviation “CTRV” may be used.

Flexibility is important in this moment of transition to a new redemption value in order to minimize disruption to product distribution and avoid any potential supply chain disruptions that could harm consumers. It is also imperative that consumers are made aware of the changes to the law. The Department, in conjunction with this order, will work with manufacturers and retailers to execute a campaign to educate consumers on the new types of beverages covered by the bottle bill and the correct redemption value.