



Connecticut Bottle Deposit Requirements: What Craft Beverage Manufacturers Need to Know

Connecticut has a [beverage container deposit program](#) (i.e., bottle bill program) which requires that a deposit (currently 10 cents) be charged on certain bottles and cans at the point of purchase. The deposit is refunded when the empty container is returned by the consumer to a redemption location. The goal is to keep cans and bottles out of the trash so they can be recycled.

By Connecticut law, every covered beverage container containing a carbonated beverage sold or offered for sale in this state, shall have a refund value. Such refund value shall be a uniform amount throughout the distribution process in this state.

What beverages are [required to have a deposit](#) in Connecticut?

Beer & other malt beverages

Malt-based hard seltzer

Malt-based hard cider

Soda (and similar carbonated soft drinks)

Kombucha

Plant-infused drinks

Tea & coffee

Carbonated mineral water

Water (including flavored water, plant water & nutritionally enhanced water)

Sports drinks, energy drinks

Juice & juice drinks (non-carbonated flavored drinks containing > 0% juice)

What steps should a craft beverage maker that sells products in bottles and cans in CT take to comply with the law?

1. Include deposit information on containers including the refund value and "CT". Metal containers must have the labeling embossed/ stamped on the top.
2. Register with CT Department of Revenue Services (DRS) and set up the necessary system to collect the deposit if you sell cans/bottles from your tap room, tasting room or facility.



Bottle Bill deposits need to be held in a special account for the state and require quarterly reporting to DRS on Form OP-515, *Beverage Container Deposit Report*. The due dates for the quarterly reports are January 31, April 30, July 31, and October 31 for the previous calendar quarter. A portion of unredeemed deposit balances must be sent to the state. See [Beverage Container Deposit Information \(ct.gov\)](#) on the DRS website for detailed information and for commonly asked questions, DRS' Bottle Deposit [FAQs \(ct.gov\)](#).

3. Collect the 10-cent deposit at the initial point of sale (e.g., a bar/restaurant, liquor store, grocery store).
4. Establish a redemption system at your facility so that customers can easily return empty containers to you and be refunded the 10-cent deposit. Include signage at the point of sale with this information so customers are aware. An example of signage is included at the end of this document. It can be edited and/or printed and used by breweries.
5. If you self-distribute bottles and cans to retail locations for sale, set up a system with the retailer to collect and return the deposit amount as well as collect empty beverage containers.

What happens with empty containers that have been returned for deposit to my facility?

After refunding the deposit to the customer, the empty bottles and cans must be recycled. An option is to send this material to a local scrap metal facility or a reprocessor that accepts scrap metal, glass and/or plastic (including plastic can carriers such as pakteck). Often, these facilities will pay a small amount for this material. If a reprocessing facility cannot be found, recyclable material can be recycled by your trash haulers.

The following reprocessors are based in CT and provided for example purposes only (not an endorsement of specific companies):

1. [Welcome to G&S Scrap Metal \(gsscrap.com\)](http://gsscrap.com)
2. [Home | Prime Materials Recovery, Inc. | East Hartford, CT \(pmrinc.com\)](http://pmrinc.com)
3. [Plastic Scrap Buyers - Seaview Plastic Recycling](#)

Where can I find more information about Connecticut's bottle bill and other environmental topics for craft beverage manufacturers?

- [Connecticut Bottle Bill](#)
- [Summary of CT Bottle Bill Legislation](#)
- [Bottle Bill Covered Beverages / Containers](#)
- [Sustainable Breweries \(DEEP webpage\)](#)

Questions for CT DEEP?

- Contact [Connie Mendolia](#) for pollution prevention technical assistance
- Contact [Laura Pointek](#) for CT bottle bill information

Example of Signage on next page:

Can & Bottle Returns



A 10-cent deposit is charged for all cans & bottles purchased at this brewery and can only be redeemed here when the empty beverage containers are returned here.

Please Note: Our beverage containers are NOT redeemable at CT redemption centers or other retailers.

PLEASE RECYCLE