



April 30, 2026

Updated Handling Fee Guidance

As noted on March 31, 2026, the recent passage of Public Act 26-2 enacted certain changes to Connecticut's Bottle Redemption Law. Section 1 of Public Act 26-2 sets forth a provision in which the handling fee for all beverage containers must be reduced by no more than one cent for a period starting April 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. Such reduction is applicable to any redemption center that meets the following two factors: (1) on average, annually redeems 50 million beverage containers or more as confirmed by the Department in consultation with Department of Revenue Services and (2) does not utilize automated barcode or universal product code (UPC) scanners for redemption.

The Department has received affidavits from redemption centers providing the number of beverage containers process for calendar year 2025 and whether the redemption center utilizes automated barcode or UPC scanning for redemption.

Based on the information provided, redemption centers that process 50 million or more beverage containers and do not have automated barcode or UPC scanning technology installed and in operation for the redemption of beverage containers will have a reduction in the handling fee paid by a distributor of one cent, beginning May 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027. The Department has identified Soda Stop Plus Thrift, LLC, located at 1100 Boston Avenue, Bridgeport and Central Connecticut Redemption Center, located at 208 Hillhurst Avenue in New Britain as the only redemption centers subject to the handling fee reduction. This list of redemption centers is subject to change based on new or updated information provided to the Department.