Questions & Answers - BCRS Supermarket Operator Briefing on 8 July 2025

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1. **Registration and Barcode**

S/N	Question	Response
1.1	**What is the product registration process and what information is required?**	Product registration will tentatively commence on BCRS Ltd.'s website in September 2025. Required information includes the product name, product barcode number (current & new), beverage container dimension, net weight of beverage container, material, volume and a copy of the artwork with dimensions. The information must be submitted via BCRS Ltd.'s registration portal and registration will take approximately 12 weeks. Samples of certain beverage containers may be requested to facilitate testing with the Reverse Vending Machines. BCRS Ltd. will provide more information when product registration commences. Early registration is encouraged.
1.2	**Is there a need for a new barcode or is the current barcode sufficient?** **If there is a need for a new barcode, do I get it from BCRS Ltd. after product registration?** **If there is a need for a new barcode, does it mean that international barcode is not acceptable?**	Yes, producers will be required to obtain a new barcode (e.g., from GS1) for any beverage containers affixed with the Scheme's deposit mark after 1 April 2026. This new barcode is needed to facilitate the transition period and help retailers distinguish between products with and without the $0.10 deposit at the Point-of-Sale systems. Producers may reach out to BCRS Ltd. for advice on obtaining new barcodes. Producers can choose either a **new** Singapore-specific barcode or a **new** international barcode. Singapore-specific barcode is encouraged to prevent parallel imports from being accepted at return points without the deposit being paid upfront to the scheme operator. International barcodes are acceptable but will

S/N	Question	Response
		incur an international barcode security fee. More details will be shared by BCRS Ltd. during product registration. Producers that are unable to print new barcodes on the beverage container may use stickers to affix the new barcode for at least 1 year (from 1 April 2026). After the first year, they may choose to continue using stickers or revert to the original barcode. During product registration, producers will need to input both the original and new barcodes for the regulated products supplied in Singapore.
1.3	**In cases of parallel imports, can multiple companies register using the same international barcode for the same regulated beverage product?** **If I am the first company to register the regulated beverage product with BCRS Ltd., will other companies (e.g., parallel importers) be notified and be able to use my registration details for the same product?**	For parallel imports, it is acceptable for multiple companies to register the same barcode for the same beverage product. Each company must register their beverage products independently with BCRS Ltd. Product registration is unique to each company and details will not be shared between companies.
1.4	**Can companies register for BCRS membership before supplying regulated beverage products in Singapore?**	Yes, companies that intend to supply regulated beverage products are required to register as members with BCRS Ltd. before they begin actual supply.
1.5	**How would retailers identify whether a specific barcode has been registered?**	BCRS Ltd. will share the list of registered products and barcodes with retailers. Retailers may refer to that list to ensure that they supply registered regulated beverage products.

S/N	Question	Response
1.6	**Are there any records that should be retained by supermarket operators and retailers?**	The Resource Sustainability Act 2019 only prescribes record keeping requirements for producers. Supermarket operators and retailers are required to retain documentations relating to their purchase and supply[1] of regulated beverage products. These records may be required during fraud investigations.

2. **Deposit Mark & Label**

S/N	Question	Response
2.1	**Is the deposit mark logo mandatory?** **How should deposit marks be applied to multi-pack regulated beverage products?**	The deposit mark is mandatory for all in-scope beverage containers (i.e., plastic or metal containers ranging from 150ml to 3L). The deposit mark is required on each individual container, regardless of how it is packaged (e.g., multi-pack). Importers should work with overseas suppliers to ensure individual beverage containers are pre-labelled or use stickers if necessary.
2.2	**What is the process for using stickers?** **Who are the approved sticker suppliers? Can these vendors provide other services (e.g., labelling)?** **Can deposit mark stickering be done overseas (e.g., at country of import)?**	Stickers can only be purchased from BCRS Ltd.'s approved vendors. Details of approved sticker vendors and costs of stickers will be provided by BCRS Ltd. during Phase 2 registration. Stickers can be ordered through BCRS Ltd.'s system, but the invoicing is to be made directly with the approved sticker vendor.

[1] Supply includes products sold to customers as well as those given out for free (e.g., as samples).

S/N	Question	Response
		Companies may enquire directly with these vendors about additional services such as labelling. The approved sticker vendors are based in Singapore. For overseas stickering, companies may request for the engaged approved vendor to ship the stickers overseas.

3. Return Points and Reverse Vending Machine (RVM)

S/N	Question	Response
3.1	**What are the RVM installation details?** **Do supermarket operators get to choose what RVMs are allocated to their premises?**	The RVMs will be provided by BCRS Ltd., with allocation based on store size and footfall. Companies can write to BCRS Ltd. at info@bcrs.sg for more information on the types of RVMs available.
3.2	**How will the handling fee be determined? Will the handling fee cover costs associated with hosting the RVMs at our premises (e.g., utilities, labour), or will there be government subsidies?**	There will be no government subsidies as this is an industry-led scheme. The handling fee is intended to cover the costs associated with hosting the RVM. The exact fee may vary based on the specific operating model agreed between BCRS Ltd. and the supermarket (e.g., availability of site support for maintenance and logistics).
3.3	**Are RVMs able to accept containers of all shapes and sizes, including those with remaining contents?**	The RVMs are unable to accept odd-shaped beverage containers (e.g., containers that are too wide, or top-heavy containers which may prevent the RVMs from reading the barcodes correctly) or containers deposited with contents.

S/N	Question	Response
		BCRS Ltd. will determine whether a container is considered "odd-shaped" during product registration through testing of sample containers at the RVMs. Odd-shaped containers will need to be returned at manual return points.
3.4	**As a return point operator, we expect that consumers will approach us if they face any issues with the RVMs. How do we assist them?**	BCRS Ltd. will communicate to consumers on proper return of beverage containers and will provide training to supermarket operators on how to handle commonly asked questions from customers. BCRS Ltd. will also provide a helpline for consumers if they encounter issues with the RVMs. Supermarket operators can direct consumers to this helpline if they are unable to resolve the issue.

4. Deposit Charging and Refunds

S/N	Question	Response
4.1	**I have a retail shop that is under Food Shop Licence instead of Supermarket Licence. Does that mean we need to charge the $0.10 deposit to customers?**	From 1 April 2026, anyone supplying a regulated beverage product with the deposit mark must apply the $0.10 deposit.
4.2	**Are the deposit charging guidelines that are being developed applicable to mom-and-pop shops and coffeeshops?**	The guidelines on when to waive and when to charge deposit will be applicable to anyone who supplies regulated beverage products in Singapore. Coffeeshops and mom-and-pop shops will have the same obligations as other retailers and be required to ensure that the

S/N	Question	Response
		beverage products they sell have the deposit mark and charge the $0.10 deposit to their customers.
4.3	**For regulated beverage products served during dine-in, do retailers still need to charge customers?**	It depends. In such cases, retailers have a choice. If the retailer does not hand over the beverage container to the customer (e.g., the beverage is poured into a cup and served), there is no need to charge the $0.10 deposit. The retailer can return the empty beverage containers at designated return points to obtain the $0.10 deposit refund. Otherwise, there would be a need to charge the $0.10 deposit.
4.4	**What is the invoicing requirements for point-of-sales (POS) systems?**	IRAS aims to release guidelines by October 2025. In the meantime, retailers should start engaging POS vendors to ensure their systems are able to: i) Reflect the BCRS deposit as a separate line item from beverage sales and ensure that GST is not charged on the BCRS deposit and ii) Indicate that the deposit is not subject to GST in tax invoices/receipts to customers.
4.5	**How are deposits handled between suppliers and retailers?** **If retailers return unsold products to their suppliers, do retailers get a refund of the deposit from their suppliers?**	Deposits between suppliers and retailers should be handled based on their respective trade terms and BCRS Ltd. will not dictate how it is handled. Guidelines will be issued by BCRS Ltd. in 4Q2025 to address the treatment of deposits in such scenarios, e.g., return or exchange of expired goods that have already been supplied in Singapore, and disposal of expired goods.

S/N	Question	Response

5. Compliance

S/N	Question	Response
5.1	**If I am already reporting my beverage containers under the Mandatory Packaging Reporting scheme, is there still a need to report them under the BCRS?**	BCRS and the Mandatory Packaging Reporting are separate schemes. Companies obligated under both must report separately.
5.2	**For house brand products, we appoint a manufacturer to produce for us. As the brand belongs to us, are we considered a producer or importer?**	A beverage producer is defined as a person who i) imports into Singapore or ii) manufactures the beverage product in Singapore or is engaged by another person to manufacture the beverage product. If you are the brand owner and have engaged a local contract manufacturer to manufacture your product, the local contract manufacturer will be the producer and be obliged to pay the deposit and producer fee to BCRS Ltd. If the contract manufacturer is based overseas, the brand owner that imports the beverage product into Singapore will be the producer as he is the first person who supplies the regulated beverage products in Singapore. For more information on producer related queries, please refer to the Producer Briefing in February 2025 available on NEA's website.

S/N	Question	Response
5.3	**What will happen if the existing stocks are slow moving and cannot be cleared before scheme commences on 1 April 2026?**	From 1 April 2026, regulated beverages sold in Singapore should start to be affixed with a deposit mark. These beverages will carry a $0.10 deposit. The beverage and retail industry will be given a 3-month transition period from 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026 to clear old stocks which are not labelled with the scheme's deposit mark, not carry a $0.10 deposit and therefore ineligible for refunds. By 1 July 2026, **all** regulated beverages must be labelled with the deposit mark and carry a $0.10 deposit. Retailers should work with your beverage suppliers on inventory planning to minimise wastage. For existing unlabelled stock that cannot be cleared within the transition period, retailers can work with beverage suppliers to ensure these products are re-labelled with deposit mark stickers, before selling them.
5.4	**How should producers pay the deposit and producer fee to scheme operator?**	The deposits and producer fees are paid to the scheme operator on a monthly frequency, based on put-to-market volume in the previous month. BCRS Ltd. will directly debit the deposits and producer fee from your company's bank account (based on bank details provided during registration).