

Oregon Bottle Bill Law

This link takes you to the text of 46 pages of solid waste legislation. A section of that is the container deposit law, which is below.

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/459a.html>

BEVERAGE CONTAINERS; BOTTLE BILL

459A.700 Definitions for ORS 459A.700 to 459A.740. As used in ORS 459.992 (3) and (4) and 459A.700 to 459A.740, unless the context requires otherwise:

- (1) “Beverage” means water and flavored water, beer or other malt beverages and mineral waters, soda water and similar carbonated soft drinks in liquid form and intended for human consumption.
- (2)(a) “Beverage container” means an individual, separate, sealed glass, metal or plastic bottle or can containing a beverage in a quantity less than or equal to three fluid liters.
- (b) “Beverage container” does not include cartons, foil pouches and drink boxes.
- (3) “Commission” means the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.
- (4) “Consumer” means every person who purchases a beverage in a beverage container for use or consumption.
- (5) “Dealer” means every person in this state who engages in the sale of beverages in beverage containers to a consumer, or means a redemption center certified under ORS 459A.735.
- (6) “Distributor” means every person who engages in the sale of beverages in beverage containers to a dealer in this state including any manufacturer who engages in such sales.
- (7) “Importer” means any dealer or manufacturer who directly imports beverage containers into this state.
- (8) “In this state” means within the exterior limits of the State of Oregon and includes all territory within these limits owned by or ceded to the United States of America.
- (9) “Manufacturer” means every person bottling, canning or otherwise filling beverage containers for sale to distributors, importers or dealers.
- (10) “Place of business of a dealer” means the location at which a dealer sells or offers for sale beverages in beverage containers to consumers.

(11) “Use or consumption” includes the exercise of any right or power over a beverage incident to the ownership thereof, other than the sale or the keeping or retention of a beverage for the purposes of sale.

(12) “Water and flavored water” means any beverage identified through the use of letters, words or symbols on its product label as a type of water. [Formerly 459.810; 2007 c.303 §1]

459A.705 Refund value required. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, every beverage container sold or offered for sale in this state shall have a refund value of not less than five cents.

(2) Every beverage container certified as provided in ORS 459A.725, sold or offered for sale in this state, shall have a refund value of not less than two cents. [Formerly 459.820]

459A.710 Practices required of dealers and distributors. Except as provided in ORS 459A.715:

(1)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, a dealer may not refuse to accept from any person any empty beverage containers that contained the kind of beverage sold by the dealer, or refuse to pay to that person the refund value of a beverage container as established by ORS 459A.705.

(b) A dealer that occupies a space of less than 5,000 square feet in a single area may refuse to accept from any person any empty beverage containers of the kind, size and brand that the dealer does not sell.

(2) A distributor or importer may not refuse to accept from a dealer any empty beverage containers of the kind, size and brand sold by the distributor or importer, or refuse to pay the dealer the refund value of a beverage container as established by ORS 459A.705.

(3) The manufacturer, distributor or importer of any beverage sold in this state shall ensure that all dealers or redemption centers in this state that redeem beverage containers are paid the refund value for those beverage containers and that those beverage containers are collected from the dealer or redemption center in a timely manner. [Formerly 459.830; 2007 c.303 §2]

459A.712 Liability of manufacturer, distributor and importer for failure to pay refund value of beverage containers. Any manufacturer, distributor or importer that fails to pay to a dealer or redemption center the refund value of beverage containers and to collect beverage containers as required by ORS 459A.710 (3) is liable to the dealer or redemption center for treble the unpaid refund value and treble the collection costs incurred by the dealer or redemption center for any beverage containers that were not collected as required. [2007 c.303 §7]

459A.715 Refusal of dealer or distributor to accept or pay refund in certain cases; notice.

(1) A dealer may refuse to accept from any person, and a distributor or importer may refuse to

accept from a dealer, any empty beverage container that does not state thereon a refund value as established by ORS 459A.705.

(2) A dealer may refuse to accept and to pay the refund value of:

(a) Empty beverage containers if the place of business of the dealer and the kind of empty beverage containers are included in an order of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission approving a redemption center under ORS 459A.735.

(b) Any beverage container visibly containing or contaminated by a substance other than water, residue of the original contents or ordinary dust.

(c)(A) More than 144 individual beverage containers returned by any one person during one day, if the dealer occupies a space of 5,000 or more square feet in a single area.

(B) More than 50 individual beverage containers returned by any one person during one day, if the dealer occupies a space of less than 5,000 square feet in a single area.

(d) Any beverage container that is damaged to the extent that the brand appearing on the container cannot be identified.

(3)(a) In order to refuse containers under subsection (2)(b), (c)(A) or (d) of this section, if a dealer occupies a space of 5,000 or more square feet in a single area, the dealer must post in each area where containers are received a clearly visible and legible sign containing the following information:

NOTICE:

Oregon Law allows a dealer to refuse to accept:

1. Beverage containers visibly containing or contaminated by a substance other than water, residue of the original contents or ordinary dust;

2. More than 144 individual beverage containers from any one person during one day; or

3. Beverage containers that are damaged to the extent that the brand appearing on the container cannot be identified.

(b) In order to refuse containers under subsection (2)(b), (c)(B) or (d) of this section, if a dealer occupies a space of less than 5,000 square feet in a single area, the dealer must post in each area where containers are received a clearly visible and legible sign containing the following information:

NOTICE:

Oregon Law allows a dealer to refuse to accept:

1. Beverage containers visibly containing or contaminated by a substance other than water, residue of the original contents or ordinary dust;
2. More than 50 individual beverage containers from any one person during one day; or
3. Beverage containers that are damaged to the extent that the brand appearing on the container cannot be identified.

[Formerly 459.840; 1993 c.356 §1; 2003 c.761 §1; 2007 c.303 §§3,4]

459A.720 Indication of refund value; exception; prohibition of certain metal containers and plastic container holders. (1) Every beverage container sold or offered for sale in this state by a dealer shall clearly indicate by embossing or by a stamp, or by a label or other method securely affixed to the beverage container, the refund value of the container.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to glass beverage containers designed for beverages having a brand name permanently marked thereon which, on October 1, 1972, had a refund value of not less than five cents.

(3) No person shall sell or offer for sale at retail in this state any metal beverage container so designed and constructed that a part of the container is detachable in opening the container without the aid of a can opener.

(4) On or after March 1, 1979, no person shall sell or offer for sale at retail in this state, in addition to beverages as defined in ORS 459A.700 (1), any beverage in liquid form intended for human consumption in any beverage container so designed and constructed that a metal part of the container is detachable in opening the container through use of a metal ring or tab without the aid of a can opener. However, nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the sale of a container the only detachable part of which is a piece of pressure sensitive tape.

(5) No person shall sell or offer for sale at retail in this state metal beverage containers connected to each other by a separate holding device constructed of plastic rings or other material which will not decompose by photobiodegradation, chemical degradation, or biodegradation within 120 days of disposal. [Formerly 459.850]

459A.725 Certification of containers as reusable by more than one manufacturer; rules. (1) To promote the use in this state of reusable beverage containers of uniform design, and to

facilitate the return of containers to manufacturers for reuse as a beverage container, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission may certify beverage containers which satisfy the requirements of this section.

(2) A beverage container may be certified if:

(a) It is reusable as a beverage container by more than one manufacturer in the ordinary course of business; and

(b) More than one manufacturer will in the ordinary course of business accept the beverage container for reuse as a beverage container and pay the refund value of the container.

(3) The commission may by rule establish appropriate liquid capacities and shapes for beverage containers to be certified or decertified in accordance with the purposes set forth in subsection (1) of this section.

(4) A beverage container shall not be certified under this section if by reason of its shape or design, or by reason of words or symbols permanently inscribed thereon, whether by engraving, embossing, painting or other permanent method, it is reusable as a beverage container in the ordinary course of business only by a manufacturer of a beverage sold under a specific brand name. [Formerly 459.860]

459A.730 Decision upon certification applications; review and withdrawal of certifications.

(1) Unless an application for certification under ORS 459A.725 is denied by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission within 60 days after the filing of the application, the beverage container shall be deemed certified.

(2) The commission may review at any time certification of a beverage container. If after such review, with written notice and hearing afforded to the person who filed the application for certification under ORS 459A.725, the commission determines the container is no longer qualified for certification, it shall withdraw certification.

(3) Withdrawal of certification shall be effective not less than 30 days after written notice to the person who filed the application for certification under ORS 459A.725 and to the manufacturers referred to in ORS 459A.725 (2). [Formerly 459.870]

459A.735 Redemption centers. (1) To facilitate the return of empty beverage containers and to serve dealers of beverages, any person may establish a redemption center, subject to the approval of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, at which any person may return empty beverage containers and receive payment of the refund value of such beverage containers.

(2) Application for approval of a redemption center shall be filed with the commission. The application shall state the name and address of the person responsible for the establishment and operation of the redemption center, the kind of beverage containers that will be accepted at the

redemption center and the names and addresses of the dealers to be served by the redemption center. The application shall include such additional information as the commission may require.

(3) The commission shall approve a redemption center if it finds the redemption center will provide a convenient service to persons for the return of empty beverage containers. The order of the commission approving a redemption center shall state the dealers to be served by the redemption center and the kind of empty beverage containers that the redemption center must accept. The order may contain such other provisions to ensure the redemption center will provide a convenient service to the public as the commission may determine.

(4) The commission may review at any time approval of a redemption center. After written notice to the person responsible for the establishment and operation of the redemption center, and to the dealers served by the redemption center, the commission may, after hearing, withdraw approval of a redemption center if the commission finds there has not been compliance with its order approving the redemption center, or if the redemption center no longer provides a convenient service to the public. [Formerly 459.880; 2007 c.303 §5]

459A.740 Certification and withdrawal procedures. The procedures for certification or withdrawal provided for in ORS 459A.725 to 459A.735 shall be in accordance with ORS chapter 183. [Formerly 459.890]