

CITY OF BURNABY  
ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS

RE: Expansion of Deposit Refund System for Beverage Containers

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council request the beverage container industry be required to provide an annual report on the returns collected at the retail stores and depots and further; that the regional district and local municipalities be included in the discussion and decision making process prior to any decision being made on the implementation of an exit from retail plan in the G.V.R.D.

REPORT

On 1998 October 14, the Environment and Waste Management Committee completed its review of the attached letter from Chair, U.B.C.M. Environment Committee regarding the new beverage container regulation. The Committee noted that regional districts and local governments should be included in the decision making process for the exit from retail policy as a decision regarding this matter will impact local business opportunities. Accordingly, the Committee requested that Council endorse the subject recommendation and forward same to the UBCM and GVRD.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor L. Rankin  
Chair

Councillor D. Johnston  
Member

Councillor D. Lawson  
Member

: COPY - CITY MANAGER  
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING  
- DIR. PLNG. & BLDG.  
- ENVIRONMENTAL SERV. SUPERVISOR

TO: UBCM Members

FROM: Mayor John Ranta, Chair  
UBCM Environment Committee

DATE: October 2, 1998

RE: UPDATE ON BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

WCS  
hsc

UNION OF  
BRITISH  
COLUMBIA  
MUNICIPALITIES

Suite 15  
10551 Shellbridge Way  
Richmond  
British Columbia  
Canada V6X 2W9  
(604) 270-8226  
Fax (604) 660-2271  
ubcm@civicnet.gov.bc.ca

1. BEVERAGE CONTAINER EXPANSION - OCTOBER 1, 1998

The deposit refund system has been expanded to include wine and liquor bottles, carbonated and non-carbonated drinks (Koala, Canadian Clear etc.), bottled water, fruit and vegetable drinks and thirst quenchers/sports drinks

Attached is a list of phone numbers where more information about the new program can be obtained and specific questions that consumers may have can be answered.

2. TETRA PAK/POLYCOAT CONTAINERS

The provincial cabinet has granted a temporary exemption from the new regulation for polycoat containers until October 1, 1999. Currently there are very few options to recycle polycoat containers and it is not clear that they can be recycled economically in the long term.

The provincial government has established an industry committee to find and implement a long-term recycling solution that will meet both industry and government's recycling goals.

The decision to exempt polycoat containers was contrary to advice from the Beverage Container Management Board to the Minister. The Board was concerned that such an exemption would send the wrong message to industry regarding their responsibility for product stewardship.

The UBCM Environment Committee also recommended to the Minister that there be no changes to the existing container types included under the beverage container regulation. The Committee felt that any changes in the beverage containers covered would only act to undermine the existing regulation and provide encouragement to those groups opposed to the implementation of an expanded beverage container system.

: COPY - CITY MANAGER  
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING  
- DIR. PLNG. & BLDG.

The decision to exempt polycoat containers may result in increased landfill costs to local governments who are responsible for the management of solid wastes.

### 3. DEPOSIT LEVELS

The refund levels on non-alcoholic beverage containers has been changed from 5, 10 and 30 cents to 5 cents for containers up to one litre, 20 cents for containers over one litre.

Refundable deposits for alcoholic beverage containers will be 10 cents up to one litre, 20 cents over one litre.

The affect of this decision will be to reduce the overall administrative costs to industry in implementing the program and will result in major cost savings to industry.

### 4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

Local governments will continue to be approached by the beverage container industry for the zoning necessary to establish 'return centres' to collect beverage containers in commercial areas. Return Centres have been opened or are scheduled to open in Delta, Nanaimo, Surrey, Richmond, New Westminster, Burnaby, Coquitlam and Ucluelet.

A number of local liquor stores will be using glass breakers on their premises, as they do not have the ability to store the large volume of containers they will be collecting under the new regulation. The liquor stores are using a new model of glass breaker that is quieter than existing card board bailers.

Local governments with blue box recycling programs may receive complaints about increased scavenging of material from these boxes and may need to consider measures to prevent this type of activity (i.e. bylaws etc.).

There will be competing business opportunities put forward for the collection of beverage containers in some communities, between the retail sector (i.e. reverse vending machines, in-store depots) and depot operators. Local government will be challenged to ensure that there is a level playing field and that the best interests of the community is addressed in the process.

### 5. EXIT FROM RETAIL

Regional Districts under the new regulation will be approached by Encorp Pacific Inc. to support an exit-from-retail plan in their area.

Under the regulation the beverage container industry may request the province implement an exit-from-retail plan in a specific regional district where 75% of the returns are collected in depots. A decision on this issue will have a direct impact on the beverage container market in the area and the type of business opportunities which may be available (i.e. reverse vending machines, depot operations etc.).

The UBCM is currently working with the province in developing a protocol on this issue. We would like to obtain your views in writing on this matter:

*What type of information do you need to make a decision on an exit-from-retail policy in your region?*

*What role should regional districts/municipalities have in a decision to establish an exit-from-retail policy in their area (i.e. veto, advisory role etc.)?*

We would appreciate your written comments on this issue by the end of October. Please forward your comments to Ken Vance, Senior Policy Analyst in the UBCM Office.

# Beverage Container Contact Matrix September 29, 1998

Encorp Pacific Inc.: 1-800-330-9767 <http://www.encorpinc.com>  
 Recycling Council of BC (RCBC) Greater Vancouver R-E-C-Y-C-L-E (732-9253)  
 Outside Vancouver 1-800-667-4321  
 Outside BC 604-732-9253

Liquor Distribution Branch: Local LDB Store  
 LDB Communications at 604-252-3029

Ministry of Environment Lands & Parks: (250) 387-9977  
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca:80/epd/cpr/regs/bcspr.html>

	NON-ALCOHOLIC	ALCOHOLIC
<b>CONTAINER RETURNS</b>		
• Return limits at retail	Encorp, RCBC	LDB, RCBC
• Depot locations, hrs of operation, tel #s	Encorp, RCBC	LDB, RCBC
<b>DEPOSITS/REFUNDS</b>		
• Beverages/containers subject to deposit levels	Encorp, RCBC	LDB, RCBC
• Where the money goes	Encorp, RCBC	LDB, RCBC
• Fate of unredeemed deposits	Encorp	LDB
<b>RECYCLING</b>		
• Markets for returned containers	Encorp	LDB, RCBC
<b>CONSUMER COMPLAINTS</b>		
• About depots	Encorp	LDB
• About retailers	Encorp	LDB
<b>QUESTIONS FROM:</b>		
• Beverage Retailers (Grocers, convenience stores, etc.)	Encorp	
• Beverage Wholesalers & Distributors	Encorp	LDB
• Beverage Producers	Encorp	LDB
• Hospitals, Schools, Institutions	Encorp	
• Restaurants, Hotels, etc.	Encorp	LDB
• Callers wanting to establish a depot.	Encorp, RCBC	LDB
<b>PUBLIC POLICY QUESTIONS</b>		
• About what's in the Beverage Container Stewardship Program Regulation and why E.g., ⇒ Why did the government grant an extension for drinking boxes and gable top containers? ⇒ Why did the government change the deposit levels? ⇒ Why is ___ covered/not covered by the regulation?	MELP	MELP
• Clarification or interpretation of the regulation	MELP	MELP
• Beverage Container Management Board	MELP	MELP

