Lithuania’s Deposit System

Public institution
Užstato Sistemos Administratorius
Deposit system management

A public institution *Užstato Sistemos Administratorius (USAD)* is a non-profit organization that has an underlying objective of managing the deposit system as indicated in Law on Packaging and Packaging Waste.

- Founded and managed by directly involved industries:
  - Lithuanian Brewers Association
  - Association of Lithuanian Trade Enterprises
  - Lithuanian Natural Mineral Water Manufacturers’ Association
Beverage packages types in the mandatory deposit system (capacity from 0.10 to 3.0 litre):

- PET
- Metal (Al and Fe cans)
- Glass

01/02/2016
Mandatory deposit system for beverage packages launched in Lithuania
Deposit system scope

Beverage categories in the mandatory deposit system:

› Beer, Beer mixes
› Cider, Pear cider
› Other fermented alcohol drinks and mixes
› Non-alcoholic drinks
› Water
› Juices and nectars

Annual volumes ~600 mln beverage containers
Deposit system infrastructure

Amount of collection points and their types:

- Reverse vending machine (RVM) points – **close to 1.000**
- Manual collection points – **over 1.700**

Total 2.700

In total over **1.100** RVMs installed

89% of packages are collected in RVM points
How does everything work?

Packaging companies

The packaging company sells the packaging to the retailer who pays the price of the product and the deposit.

The retailer returns reusable packaging to the packaging company.

The packaging company reimburses the deposit to the retailer.

Movement of packaging

Movement of deposit

Movement of reusable packaging

The consumer returns the packaging to the retailer.

The retailer reimburses the deposit to the consumer.

The consumer pays the retailer the price of the products plus the deposit for the packaging.

USAD counts one way packaging and returns deposit to the retailer on the basis of the counted packaging.
Producers obligations

- Marking deposit packages with **deposit logo**
- Choosing type of **barcode**: universal or unique
- Charging deposit for each sold deposit package
- Participating in deposit system and **financing** it
Producers obligations

Producers and importers are the main sponsors of the deposit system.

- 30% raw materials sale
- 17% unredeemed deposit
- 53% producer subsidy

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Retailers obligations

- Taking deposit from consumers
- Taking back deposit packages from consumers and returning deposit
74% of the deposit system expenses include Retailers and RVM cost (such as compensating collection cost and expenses of using RMV)
Collection & recycling results

Targets for 2025 are already achieved and exceeded.

Deposit system allows higher recycling targets vs. container system.

Before deposit system introduction PET bottles recycling was below 33%.

EU recycling targets by 2025.
Collection & recycling results

In the first 3 years we collected:

1,500,000,000 beverage containers

56,000 tones

6 Eiffel towers

Recycling volumes:

2016 – 16,000 tones  2017 – 20,000 tones  2018 – approx. 20,000 tones

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Collection & recycling results

100% collected materials are recycled

A very high quality of collected materials – clean and well sorted
What do consumers think?

Consumer survey conducted in 2018* resulted:

*2 years after launching the deposit system

97% of consumers answered that they are satisfied in general with functioning of the deposit system for single-use packaging.

95% of consumers indicated that the amount of garbage in parks, at lakes and other natural places, visited by people, decreased after introduction of the packaging deposit system.

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What do consumers think?

Consumer survey conducted in 2018* resulted:

*2 years after launching the deposit system

97% of consumers claimed that the deposit system is necessary

Even more importantly:

93% of consumers admitted that introduction of the packaging deposit system encouraged them to regard sorting out of all-type waste with more responsibility
Deposit system: key facts

Beverage packaging does not pollute surroundings anymore:
there are much less beverage bottles in the coastal waste and other surroundings after launching the deposit system in 2016.

![Graph showing the number of packages in the market and collected over years, with a forecast for 2018.](image-url)
Deposit system: key facts

EU PET recycling targets by 2025 already achieved

Only 9 people administrate the whole system
Since the start of its operation, Lithuania’s deposit system has prevented 152,400 t CO$_2$ emissions.