Fact Sheet: Handling Fees in Deposit Return Systems

- **Deposit return systems offer per unit handling fees to retailers and/or redemption centres as compensation for collecting and sorting empty beverage containers**
- **The presence of a handling fee is a critical part of how DRSs operate**
- **Handling fees can vary depending on material type, type of redemption facility, whether the containers are commingled or compacted, and whether collection is manual or automatic**

Introduction

A redemption network that is easy, accessible, and fair for all consumers is one of the key drivers of high return rates in a deposit return system (DRS). While a retail-based collection model is recognised as the gold standard of convenience, the next best option is a hybrid model, where privately owned redemption centres operate alongside retail stores to facilitate the return of empty containers. In either model, retailers and/or redemption centres are typically paid for their take-back services in the form of a "handling fee." Generally, these fees are paid by the system operator, or by the bottler or distributor directly to the collection point. In jurisdictions where the government is responsible for system operations, like in California, handling fees are sometimes paid by the state.

Aside from an effective minimum deposit value, handling fees are a critical part of what makes DRSs work well, particularly in jurisdictions where retailers face no legal obligation to take back containers. Handling fees are intended to act as compensation for the costs associated with collecting and sorting container returns, such as those related to investments in extra labour (for manual collection) or for the purchasing or leasing of reverse vending machines (RVMs), in the case of automated collection. On a long-term basis, they're also intended to cover expenses related to space requirements or overhead costs like site maintenance and electricity.

In a best practice DRS, handling fees are:

- Not fixed in legislation
- Based on an assessment of retailer and redemption centre actual costs
- Reviewed at set periods (annually or biannually) by the central system administrator (CSA) (whose board includes brand owner and retailer representatives), in consultation with retailers
- Take into account the potential to generate efficiency savings for the system (consequently reducing brand owners' costs)
- Differentiate between manual and automated services
- Take into account that different container types have different storage costs

Handling fees calculated according to the above principles mean:

- A collection network that allows for convenient local redemption
- Retailer and redemption centre costs are covered
- Sustainable, reasonable profits for redemption centres
- Improved service for consumers
- Ultimately higher return rates

What factors need to be considered when setting handling fees?

In Europe and other jurisdictions with high-performing DRSs, CSAs are usually responsible for setting handling fees in a way that progressively encourages cost-efficient investments by the redemption location. In determining the handling fee, the key considerations centre on how the containers are recovered (i.e. manually or automatically), where they are recovered (i.e., retailer or redemption centre), and what materials the containers are made of. Each of these factors is examined in further detail below.

Container type

Like the level of the deposit, handling fees can vary according to the container type. Different containers take up different amounts of space at redemption locations (e.g. plastic vs. aluminium) or may be more difficult to handle (e.g., glass).

Retailer vs. depot

Within a program, retailer and redemption centre (depot) costs will vary according to their location, with differing wage rates and rents, and with their throughput, with higher volumes in urban areas delivering better economies of scale. In general, however, handling fees paid to stand-alone depots (which are more commonplace in Canada and the US) are much higher than those paid to retailers because they must compensate for the entire costs of the facility and labour, as opposed to the costs incurred by retailers which represent only a marginal increase in operating cost in terms of dedicated space, labour, etc. In some jurisdictions, such as British Columbia (Canada) and Oregon (US), handling fees are not paid to retailers, which has resulted in a slow shift out of retail and towards depots and express drop-off locations, sometimes located near a retailer instead.

Commingling agreements

Commingling means the sorting of beverage containers by container type and size rather than by beverage brand in accordance with the requirements of an approved commingling agreement.[i] Commingling saves redemption locations significant space and time, reducing the strain on space and staffing capacity, which helps to make their business economically viable. In Vermont (US), retailers and redemption centre operators receive a handling fee of USD$0.035 (€0.029) per unit for containers of beverage brands that are part of an approved commingling program and a fee of USD$0.04 (€0.033) per container for brands not participating in an approved commingling program.

Manual vs. automated collection

Because of its impact on overall system cost and effectiveness, one of the most important factors to consider when setting handling fees is the method by which empty containers are recovered; that is, whether they are collected manually or automatically.

In a modern automated system (see Figure 1), consumers place their empty containers into a RVM, which counts and compacts the containers and provides the customer with a receipt (either electronic or paper), which they can then redeem at the checkout. The compacted containers are securely stored in bags until they are collected to be brought to the processing plant. Modern RVMs offer a number of additional services for consumers

and include an online connection so that returns data can be transmitted to the CSA, which allows accounts to be reconciled more quickly.

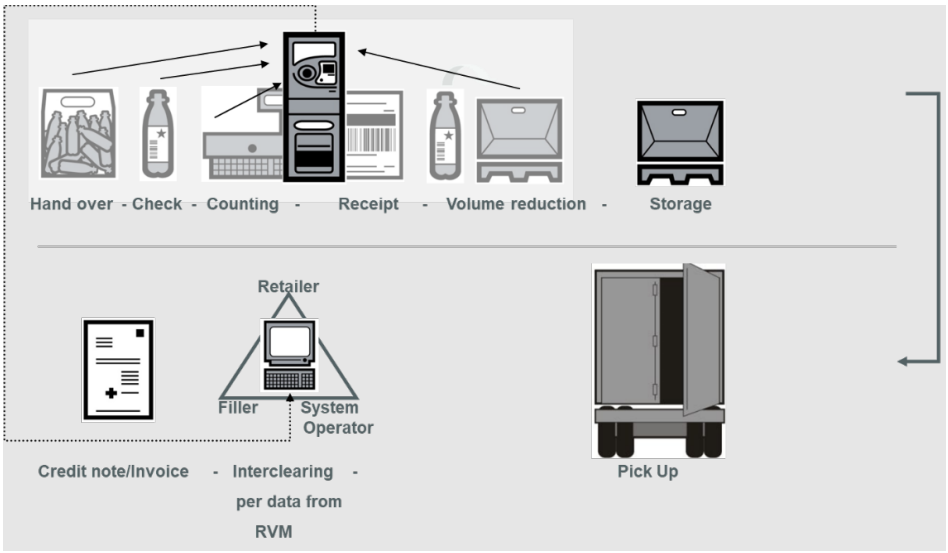

Figure 1 Automated Take-Back Value Chain

In a manual system (see Figure 2), customers return their empties to retail staff who reimburse the deposit and bring the containers to the store's dedicated storage space. Because the containers are not compacted, it is important that these are stored securely to prevent people from taking these containers and redeeming them again. These un-compacted containers, which take up more space in a collection vehicle, are then transported to a processing plant to be counted and compacted. Only then can accounts be reconciled and retailers reimbursed for the deposits they have paid out.

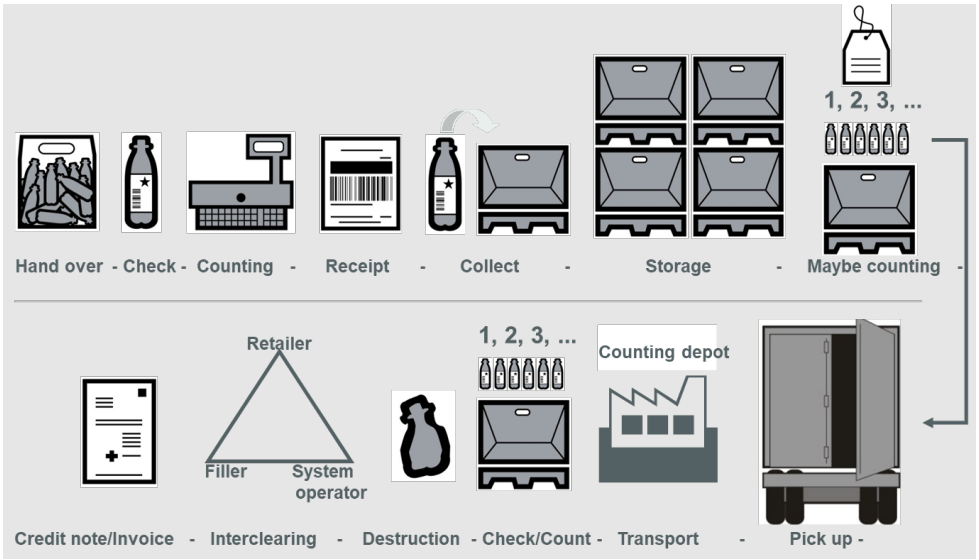

Figure 2 Manual Take-Back Value Chain

Aside from the costs associated with each collection method, there are also important benefits, particularly when it comes to RVMs. While these would not necessarily be included in calculations for determining handling fees, since they are not part of the costs of collecting and transporting used containers, it is worth identifying the further advantages and savings that can be derived from using RVMs, such as fraud prevention. For producers and distributors, one of the key benefits of modern RVMs is their ability to prevent or at least minimise fraud. Given that system revenues are used to fund the handling fee, fraud ultimately costs the beverage producers and distributors. A move towards a modern RVM system could greatly reduce the level of fraud and, consequently, the costs of the DRS.

A bottom-up approach

Handling fees should be calculated using a "bottom-up" approach, based on the costs incurred to retailers in relation to:

- **Space:** based on the average rental cost per square metre, with assumptions made on the floor space taken up by take-back infrastructure (for RVM installation and for storage of collected containers)
- **Labour:** based on average hourly wages, with assumptions made on the additional labour time required for taking back containers, processing receipts, and potentially cleaning RVMs and emptying bins when they are full
- **RVM investment and maintenance/service costs:** based on annualised costs associated with their purchase, installation, and ongoing servicing (in cases where retailers are provided RVMs free of charge by the DRS operator, the handling fee would be reduced)
- **Cost of consumables:** Based on annualised costs related to the purchase of bins/bags, electricity, water usage, etc.

Figure 3 presents a summary of the factors to consider when calculating the handling fee in manual, non-compacting RVM, and compacting RVM scenarios. The blue boxes contain the costs to retailers that need to be covered by the handling fee. The red boxes are wider system costs that are affected by a retailer's manual or RVM choice. Manual redemption results in lower costs to retailers, but significantly higher wider system costs. The opposite is true with an RVM-based system.

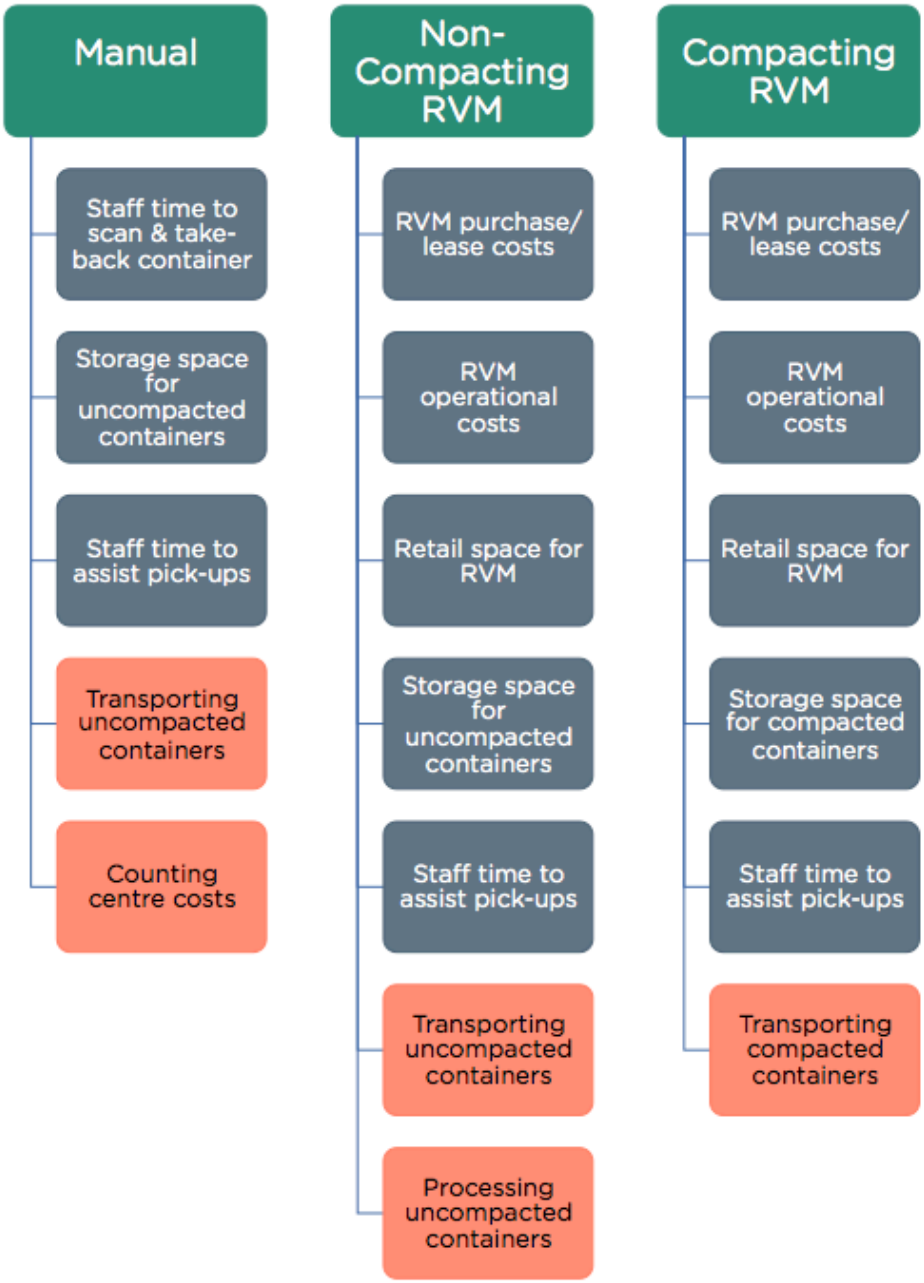

Figure 3 Calculating Handling Fee Based on Cost Coverage[ii]

In most North American DRSs, the handling fee is either set at a flat rate or is different for alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. Conversely, many European countries pay a differential handling fee depending on the mode of recovery and the cost implications. Handling fees based on cost recovery (as in Norway and Estonia, for example) mean that retailers are fairly compensated. When retailers know the handling fees to be received, they can predict the income they'd receive based on anticipated return volumes and can make an informed decision about whether or not to invest in one or more RVMs. Conversely, a fixed-fee approach (as in Connecticut and New York, for example) means that many retailers' costs will not be fully covered, particularly retailers with RVMs. Prescribing handling fees in legislation can also politicise the issue, subjecting the legislature to lobbying from retailers for a fee increase and from producers who will oppose a change that would increase their costs.

The next section presents a number of case studies that illustrate examples of both good and bad practice when it comes to the setting of DRS handling fees.

Case studies

Norway

In Norway, handling fees are set by Infinitum, a non-profit organisation established to operate the country's DRS and achieve a high performance to avoid a very high tax placed on any non-redeemed beverage containers. Infinitum's board includes representatives of both the beverage and retail industry, which ensures that all interests are taken into consideration when establishing the fees and that decision-making is transparent.

As Table 1 shows, the handling fee paid to retail sites in Norway depends on the method of collection. Retailers using a compacting RVM receive a higher handling fee than stores that employ manual collection, or do not have a compacting RVM. These differential fees are intended to reflect the transportation efficiencies generated by compacting the containers and the fact that compaction reduces the opportunity for fraudulent, multiple redemptions. It is also worth noting that different handling fees are attached to different materials, as these again carry different storage and transport-related costs.

Table 1 Variable Handling Fees in Norway (2020)[iii]

	Aluminium can	Plastic bottle
RVM with compaction	0.20 NOK (€0.02, USD $0.024)	0.25 NOK (€0.025, USD $0.03)
RVM without compaction Manual collection	0.05 NOK (€0.005, USD $0.006)	0.10 NOK (€0.01, USD $0.012)

In 2019, Infinitum achieved recovery rates of over 89% for both cans and plastic bottles. Around 93% are returned using Norway's 3,700 RVMs (with the remaining 7% returned manually in small shops), which demonstrates their value to consumers, retailers, and to Infinitum.

Estonia

In Estonia, the system operator (Eesti Pandipakend OÜ) and retailer associations have agreed upon a formula to calculate the handling fee. The formula, which is reviewed annually to account for inflation, is intended to reflect all of the costs involved (including retailer space requirements and staff wages) to reach a figure that is both cost and revenue neutral. Like Norway, Estonia differentiates between RVM with compaction and a manual collection system, and the handling fee for retailers with an RVM with compaction is almost three times higher than retailers relying on manual returns (see Table 2).

Table 2 Variable Handling Fees in Estonia (2020)[iv]

	Aluminium can	Plastic bottle	Glass bottle
Manual collection	€0.0115 (USD $0.014) + VAT	€0.0115 (USD $0.014) + VAT	€0.013 (USD $0.016) + VAT
RVM with compaction	€0.033 (USD $0.04) + VAT	€0.033 (USD $0.04) + VAT	€0.025 (USD $0.03) + VAT

As of 2019, there were a total of 903 collection points, including 717 RVMs, across Estonia, and the overall return rate was 87.2%. Ninety-four percent of the collection system is automated, once again demonstrating their value to consumers, retailers, and the CSA.

Sweden

Like in most other European DRSs, retailers in Sweden are offered a higher handling fee if they provide an RVM. To further ensure that retailers are appropriately compensated, there is an additional distinction of how the returned containers are stored and collected. In addition to the handling fees, Returpack pays a 'fixed compensation' of SEK 20,000 per year to each automated collection point with compacting RVM(s). In the late 1990s, 90% of Sweden's deposit-bearing cans were serviced by automated equipment, with the remaining 10% being handled manually at a relatively high cost. To accelerate the transition to a low-cost automated redemption network, Returpack granted a one-time sum of 20,000 SEK to each manual collection point willing to invest in an RVM. By doing so, the can return scheme was converted to an exclusive automated take-back solution.

Table 3 Variable Handling Fees in Sweden (2021)[v]

	PET bottle ≤ 1L	PET bottle > 1L	Metal can (subject to deposit)	Metal can (no deposit)	Fixed compensation
RVM with compaction - pickup with compact truck (bulk)	0.269 SEK (€0.027, USD $0.032) + 25% VAT	0.338 SEK (€0.033, USD $0.04) + 25% VAT	0.178 SEK (€0.018, USD $0.021) + 25% VAT	0.178 SEK (€0.018, USD $0.021) + 25% VAT	20,000 SEK/year (€1,976/year, USD $2,387/year)
RVM with compaction – pickup by wholesaler / reseller (carton box/bag)	0.336 SEK (€0.033, USD $0.04) + 25% VAT	0.506 SEK (€0.05, USD $0.06) + 25% VAT	0.195 SEK (€0.019, USD $0.023) + 25% VAT	0.195 SEK (€0.019, USD $0.023) + 25% VAT	20,000 SEK/year (€1976/year, USD $2,387/year)

Manual collection (bags)	0.20 SEK (€0.02, USD $0.024) + 25% VAT	0.20 SEK (€0.02, USD $0.024) + 25% VAT	0 SEK (€0, USD $0)	0 SEK (€0, USD $0)

Lithuania

In Lithuania, the system operator (USAD) pays retailers a handling fee to cover collection-related costs like space requirements, personnel related costs, utilities, etc. (see Table 4). Because retailers in Lithuania do not incur the capital cost of the RVM, since the RVM is paid for, installed and maintained by the DRS operator, the handling fees paid to those with RVM does not cover the cost of the equipment.

Table 4 Variable Handling Fees in Lithuania (2020)[vi]

	Plastic bottle	Metal can	Glass bottle
Manual collection, RVM without compaction	€0.0159 (USD $0.019)	€0.0138 (USD $0.017)	€0.0199 (USD $0.024)
RVM with compaction	€0.0193 (USD $0.023)	€0.0144 (USD $0.017)	€0.0328 (USD $0.04)

It's worth noting that during the DRS implementation phase (2014 and 2015), Lithuanian retailers were successful in negotiating relatively high handling fees for the system's launch in February 2016. In fact, the fees were higher than those paid to retailers in other DRS markets where RVMs were not provided free of charge, but where retailers had to make that investment. Due to the immense success of the scheme, handling fee costs were much higher than budgeted, which necessitated increased EPR fees from industry. Together with the beverage industry, Užstato Sistemos Administratorius (USAD) the DRS operator) attempted to negotiate with retailers to bring the handling fees down. This process was unsuccessful, and so a consultancy firm was hired to evaluate the real costs to retailers engaged in both for manual and automated collection. Based on its findings, the consultancy firm proposed average fees for manual and automated sites, differentiated by material. This meant that outperforming collection points would earn a little more money than they actually spent on collection and lower-performing collection points would receive a little less. This neutral approach to determining handling fees (using a third-party) was accepted by the retail sector and handling fees were adjusted down.

Alberta, Canada

Alberta's collection infrastructure for beverage container returns is one of the largest in Canada. In 2019, there were 221 independently owned "universal" depots where Albertans could take back their empty beverage containers for a refund of their deposit. For every container that is returned to a depot, beverage manufacturers (through the Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation (ABCRC) or a collection service provider) are required to pay the depot a handling fee. In 2019, handling fees represented the single largest expense to Alberta's DRS, accounting for 72% of total program costs.[vii]

Unlike most other Canadian programs, Alberta's DRS has differential handling fees that vary by container type and size (see Table 5). Handling fees are set through a utility-like process that depends on depots reporting their costs annually to the Beverage Container Management Board (BCMB) using a standardised form. The information is collected by an independent third-party, which analyses and processes the information for purposes of setting handling fee rates.[viii] As per the BCMB's policies, its Board of Directors may, every three years, commence a Handling Commission Review to determine and set handling fees for the following three-year period.

Table 5 Variable Handling Fees in Alberta, Canada (2021)

Material	Handling Fee (CAD $)
Aluminium 0-1L – per container	$0.036 (€0.024, USD $0.029)
Bag in Box Over 1L – per container	$0.394 (€0.26, USD $0.32)
Bi Metal 0 - 1L – per container	$0.078 (€0.052, USD $0.063)
Bi Metal Over 1L – per container	$0.177 (€0.12, USD $0.14)
Drink Pouch 0-1L – per container	$0.070 (€0.047, USD $0.056)
Gable Top 0-1L – per container	$0.070 (€0.047, USD $0.056)
Gable Top Over 1L – per container	$0.136 (€0.091, USD $0.11)
Glass 0-1L – per container	$0.079 (€0.053, USD $0.064)
Glass Over 1L – per container	$0.157 (€0.10, USD $0.13)
HDPE Plastics Natural Over 1L – per container	$0.157 (€0.10, USD $0.13)
Industry Standard Bottles – per container	$0.065 (€0.043, USD $0.052)
Molson Coors MGD Refillable 355 ml – per container	$0.072 (€0.048, USD $0.058)
Moosehead	$0.088 (€0.059, USD $0.071)
Other Plastics 0-1L – per container	$0.055 (€0.037, USD $0.044)
Other Plastics Over 1L – per container	$0.153 (€0.10, USD $0.12)
PET 0-1L (Clear & Light Blue Tint) – per container	$0.047 (€0.031, USD $0.038)
PET Over 1L (Clear & Light Blue Tint) – per container	$0.130 (€0.087, USD $0.10)
Plastic one-way Keg Over 1L – per container	$1.943 (€1.30, USD $1.57)
Sleemans Refillable – per container	$0.070 (€0.047, USD $0.056)
Steam Whistle Refillable - per container	$0.082 (€0.055, USD $0.066)
Tetra Brik 0-1L – per container	$0.054 (€0.036, USD $0.044)
Tetra Brik Over 1L – per container	$0.141 (€0.094, USD $0.11)

Netherlands

The Netherlands provides an example of ¨bad practice¨, as they do not pay a handling fee as in other European systems. Choosing not to pay a handling fee is likely to limit both the

quality and convenience of the service offered to consumers, so will not support a high return rate.

While the Government could legislate to impose a legal obligation on retailers to take-back used containers, retailers are less likely to support the system if they are not compensated for their costs.

However, this situation will be changing, as Netherlands moves to expand their current DRS to include small PET bottles and cans (from July 2021), which are currently not part of the scope of containers in the DRS. With the expansion, the program is set to introduce a handling fee structure. The rates are to be determined.

Connecticut, US

In 2019, Connecticut had the lowest redemption rate of all 10 Bottle Bill states, recovering only 50% of all eligible beverage containers. One of the main weaknesses of the current system is the return infrastructure and that returning containers is not as convenient as it should be. This, in turn, is related to the fact that Connecticut's handling fees paid to retailers and redemption centres (USD$0.015 for each beer container and $0.02 for each carbonated soft drink and water bottle returned) are set in legislation. Handling fees have not changed since 1983 and have no connection to the actual costs incurred by those accepting returns. As a result, redemption centres across the state have struggled to cover the daily overhead costs associated with handling, storage, and processing of single-use beverage containers, leading many of them to close their doors. Aside from preventing the system from adapting with inflation or consumer trends, the fact that Connecticut's handling fees are set in legislation means that amending the system is a lengthy legislative process, through which legislators are subject to political lobbying.

Another key weakness of Connecticut's Bottle Bill is the fact that it is a decentralised system, and that no organisation is formally accountable for the system's success, compliance, or cost minimisation. Brand owners organise and pay for the collection infrastructure but have no control over the system design. Under a centralised system, handling fees would reflect actual costs. Analysis by Eunomia Research and Consulting in July 2018 show the financial benefits of a CSO-led DRS if introduced in Connecticut. The analysis found that if Connecticut's DRS were modernised and managed by a brand-owner controlled CSO, handling fees would be USD$0.0284.[ix] Although retailers' overall costs would increase, the new handling fee would ensure their costs are covered.

Michigan, US

In Michigan, while there is no handling fee per se, the state shares 25% of the unredeemed deposits it receives annually with retailers to help cover their handling costs (the amount they receive is based on the volume of containers they take back). Because the amount of unredeemed deposits goes down as the return rate goes up, the higher the return rate is, the less money there is available to give retailers to compensate them for their costs.

Summary of handling fees in existing deposit markets

Table 6 provides a summary of handling fees paid to retailers and redemption centres in existing deposit markets around the globe, where information was available.

Table 6 Handling Fees in Deposit Markets Around the World

	Handling Fee (Per container)	Notes
EUROPE		
Croatia	• RVM accepted containers: 0.18 HRK (€0.02, USD$0.02) • Manually accepted containers: 0.05 HRK (€0.01, USD$0.01)	• 25% VAT included

Denmark	• Manually accepted containers or RVM accepted containers without compaction:
	  ○ Metal: 6.2 øre (€0.008, USD$0.009)
	  ○ Plastic <1L: 6.7 øre (€0.009, USD$0.0097)
	  ○ Plastic >1L: 10.4 øre (€0.014, USD$0.015)
	  ○ Glass: 14.8 øre (€0.019, USD$0.0214)
	• RVM accepted containers with compaction:
	  ○ Metal: 1.4 øre (€0.0019, USD$0.0020)
	  ○ Plastic <1L: 1.8 øre (€0.0019, USD$0.0026)
	  ○ Plastic >1L: 2.4 øre (€0.0032, USD$0.0035)
	  ○ Glass: 7.1 øre (€0.0095, USD$0.0103)	

Estonia	• Manually accepted containers:
	  ○ Plastic, metal: €0.0115 (USD$0.013)
	  ○ One-way Glass: €0.0130 (USD$0.014)
	• RVM accepted containers without compaction:
	  ○ Plastic, metal: €0.0215 (USD$0.023)
	• RVM accepted containers with compaction:
	  ○ Plastic, metal: €0.0331 (USD$0.036)
	• RVM accepted containers:
	  ○ One-way Glass: €0.0250 (USD$0.027)
		• Does not include VAT

Finland	• Manually accepted containers or RVM accepted containers without compaction:
	  ○ Metal, plastic: €0.01930 (USD$0.021)
	• RVM accepted containers with compaction:
	  ○ Metal: €0.02300 (USD$0.025)
	  ○ Plastic: €0.02850 (USD$0.031)
	• One-way glass: €0.01930 (USD$0.021)	

Germany	• None	• No handling fee, but retailer owns the material
Iceland	• 3 ISK (€0.02, USD$0.021)	

Lithuania	• Manually accepted containers or RVM accepted containers without compaction:
	  ○ PET: €0.0193 (USD$0.021)
	  ○ Metal: €0.0144 (USD$0.016)	

	Handling Fee (Per container)	Notes
	○ Glass: €0.0328 (USD$0.036) • RVM accepted containers with compaction: ○ PET: €0.0159 (USD$0.017) ○ Metal: €0.0138 (USD$0.015) ○ Glass: €0.0199 (USD$0.022)	
Netherlands	• None	
Norway	• Manually accepted containers or RVM accepted containers without compaction: ○ Metal: 0.05 NOK (€0.0042, USD$0.0045) ○ Plastic: 0.10 NOK (€0.0083, USD$0.0090) • RVM accepted containers with compaction: ○ Metal: 0.20 NOK (€0.017, USD$0.018) ○ Plastic: 0.25 NOK (€0.021, USD$0.022)	
Sweden	• Manually accepted containers: ○ Metal: None ○ Plastic: 0.2 SEK (€0.018, USD$0.020) • RVM accepted containers without compaction: ○ Metal: 0.174 SEK (€0.016, USD$0.017) ○ Plastic ≤1L: 0.258 SEK (€0.024, USD$0.025) ○ Plastic >1L: 0.345 SEK (€0.031, USD$0.034) • RVM accepted containers with compaction: ○ Metal: 0.19 SEK (€0.017, USD$0.019) ○ Plastic ≤1L:: 0.316 SEK (€0.029, USD$0.031) ○ Plastic >1L: 0.503 SEK (€0.046, USD$0.049)	
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA		
California	• USD$0.00860 (€0.0073)	• Handling fee of $0.00860 per container paid by the State to handling fee sites only. Processing payments average $0.006 per container to redemption centres, kerbside programmes and other programs. • Redemption centres and kerbside programmes also keep revenue from scrap sales.
Connecticut	• Beer or malt containers: USD$0.015 (€0.014) • All other containers: USD$0.02 (€0.019)	
Hawaii	• USD$0.03 (€0.028) to USD$0.07 (€0.065)	• Paid to redemption centres from the Deposit Beverage Container Fund • Redemption centres also keep revenue from scrap sales.
Iowa	• USD$0.01 (€0.0093)	• Paid by deposit initiator to retailers and redemption centres
Maine	• Brand-sorted containers: USD$0.045 (€0.042)	

	Handling Fee (Per container)	Notes
	• Containers subject to a qualified commingling agreement: USD$0.035 (€0.033) • Containers for a brewer that produces no more than 50,000 gallons of product or a water bottler who sells no more than 250,000 containers of up to 1 gallon annually): USD$0.03 (€0.028)	
Massachusetts	• Containers returned to retailers: USD$0.0225 (€0.021) • Containers returned to redemption centers: USD$0.0325 (€0.030)	• Retailers receive free pick-up of containers by deposit initiators • Redemption centres must deliver redeemed containers to a central processing facility
Michigan	• None (no redemption centers)	• While there is no handling fee per se, 25% of unredeemed deposits are available to retailers to cover handling costs
New York	• USD$0.035 (€0.030)	• Paid by the distributor or deposit initiator
Oregon	• None	• The Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative (OBRC) directly funds redemption centres.
Vermont	• Brand-sorted containers: USD$0.04 (€0.037) • Containers that are part of a commingling agreement: USD$0.035 (€0.033)	
CANADA		
Alberta	• Refillable beer bottles: CAD$0.0464 (€0.030, USD$0.032) • All other containers: CAD$0.03640 (€0.023, USD$0.027) to CAD$1.26189 (€0.80, USD$0.94)	• Regulated by government and payable by a manufacturer or collection system agent to collection depots
British Columbia	• Refillable beer bottles: Bottle depots independently negotiate HFs directly with the beer industry. The average rate is about CAD$0.29/dozen (€0.19, USD$0.20) or CAD$0.0242/bottle (€0.016, USD$0.017) • All other containers: CAD$0.027 (€0.017, USD$0.019) to CAD$0.1127 (€0.072, USD$0.078)	• Paid by Encorp Pacific (Canada) and Brewers Distributors Ltd. to authorised depots only (HFs are no longer paid to retailers) HFs fluctuate depending on the cost to collect and process each type of container.
Manitoba	• Beer cans: CAD$0.0204 (€0.013, USD$0.014) • Refillable beer bottles: CAD$0.0267 (€0.017, USD$0.018)	
Newfoundland and Labrador	• Refillable beer bottles: CAD$0.05 (€0.017, USD$0.032) • All other containers: CAD$0.0435 (€0.028, USD$0.030)	• The HF on refillable beer is charged at the back-end from the refund.
New Brunswick	• Refillable beer bottles: CAD$0.0290 (€0.019, USD$0.020) • All other containers: CAD$0.0437 (€0.03, USD$0.03)	
Northwest Territories	• Refillable beer bottles: none • All other containers: CAD$0.022 (€0.014, USD$0.015) to CAD$0.045 (€0.029, USD$0.031)	
Nova Scotia	• Refillable beer bottles: CAD$0.0274 (€0.019, USD$0.02)	

	Handling Fee (Per container)	Notes
	• Moosehead brand bottle: CAD$0.0257 (€0.016, USD$0.018) • All other containers: CAD$0.0427 (€0.027, USD$0.029)	
Ontario	• Not available	• Proprietary
Prince Edward Island	• Refillable beer bottles: CAD$0.0281 (€0.018, USD$0.019) • All other containers: CAD$0.04211 (€0.02764, USD$0.02985)	
Quebec	• Refillable beer bottles: CAD$0.005 (€0.0032, USD$0.0034) • All other containers: CAD$0.02 (€0.013, USD$0.014)	
Saskatchewan	• Refillable beer bottles: CAD$0.026 (€0.017, USD$0.018) • All other containers: none	• Saskatchewan does not charge handling fees. Depots are paid a contracted rate per year, which is generated through the Environmental Handling Charge (EHC). • A handling fee on refillable beer is charged at the back-end from the refund. It is 5-cents at SARCAN depots and 2-cents at Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA) stores who also receive an additional subsidy of 2.6-cents per refillable bottle from brewers.
Yukon	• Refillable beer bottles: CAD$0.025 (€0.016, USD$0.017) • All other containers: CAD$0.025 (€0.016, USD$0.017) to CAD$0.075 (€0.048, USD$0.052)	
AUSTRALIA		
Northern Territory	• Not available	• Handling fees are negotiated. Depots may be compensated for "reasonable costs" related to handling the containers by the DRS coordinator to whom they deliver the container.
Australian Capital Territory (ACT)	• Estimated at around AUD$0.08 (€0.044, USD$0.047) to $0.09 (€0.049, USD$0.053)	• For every container returned through the collection infrastructure, the Network Operator receives a fee to cover the costs for the collection points, the logistics, counting centres and administration, as well as adding a certain margin. The value of this fee has not been made public.
New South Wales	• Estimated at around AUD$0.08 (€0.044, USD$0.047) to $0.09 (€0.049, USD$0.053)	• For every container returned through the collection infrastructure, the Network Operator receives a fee to cover the costs for the collection points, the logistics, counting centres and administration, as well as adding a certain margin. The value of this fee has not been made public.
South Australia	• Approximately AUD$0.1109 (€0.061, USD$0.066)	• Negotiated between producer/super collector.
Queensland	• Approximately AUD$0.06 (€0.033, USD$0.036) to AUD$0.065 (€0.036, USD$0.038)	• Paid to collection points • The scheme coordinator manages and pays separate fees for logistics and processing services (approximately AUD$0.09 (€0.049, USD$0.053), including collection, transport, processing).

	Handling Fee (Per container)	Notes
MIDDLE EAST		
Israel	• 0.05 ILS (€0.013, USD$0.28)	• Paid to retailers only
OCEANIA & CARIBBEAN		
Barbados	• None	• No handling fee per se, but 20% of the redemption value is paid to dealers or redemption centres
Kosrae (Federated States of Micronesia)	• None	• There is technically no handling fee, however USD$0.01/container (the non-refundable portion of the deposit) is retained by the system operator for operating costs
Kiribati	• None	• There is technically no handling fee, however AUD$0.01 (€0.01, USD$0.01)/container (the non-refundable portion of the deposit) is retained by Kiribati Recycling for operating costs
Palau	• None	• There is technically no handling fee, however USD$0.025 (€0.023)/container (the non-refundable portion of the deposit) goes to the redemption centres and USD$0.025 (€0.023)/container to the national government for administrative costs
Pohnpei	• None	• There is technically no handling fee, however USD$0.01/container (the non-refundable portion of the deposit) is retained by the system operator for operating costs
Republic of the Marshall Islands	• None	• There is technically no handling fee, however USD$0.01/container (the non-refundable portion of the deposit) is retained by the system operator for operating costs
Yap	• None	• There is technically no handling fee, however USD$0.01/container (the non-refundable portion of the deposit) is retained by the system operator for operating costs

Note: Currency conversion on March 24, 2020

[i]"Commingling of Beverage Brands in VT Bottle Bill." 26 March 2019. Accessed 9 April 2021 from
[ii]Adapted from Eunomia Research and Consulting
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[vi]USAD. "For sellers." Accessed 3 March 2021 from https://grazintiverta.lt/en/for-business/for-sellers/
[vii]CM Consulting Inc., November 2020. "Who Pays What? An Analysis of Beverage Container Collection and Costs in Canada." Accessed 9 April 2021 from https://www.cmconsultinginc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/WPW-2020-FINAL-JAN-30.pdf
[viii]Beverage Container Management Board (BCMB). "2019 Annual Report." Accessed 9 April 2021 from https://www.bcmb.ab.ca/uploads/source/Annual_Reports/2020.06.09.BCMB.2019.AR.Final..pdf
[ix]Eunomia. 2018. "Modernizing Connecticut's Bottle Bill."