

To: Liquor suppliers, agents, and industry representatives
From: Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries
Date: April 28, 2026
RE: Container Deposit Program Expansion

Expanded Container Deposit Program

Effective July 1, 2026, Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries (MBLL) will expand the container formats that participate on the refundable container deposit program to include **most** formats of **Ready-to-Drink** (RTD) products (ciders, coolers, cocktails, seltzers, teas, and sodas). As such, pricing for products with eligible container formats will be applicable to the *Empties Handling Fee and Container Deposit*.

Suppliers will remain in control of their desired retail shelf price in Manitoba.

Why is a change being made?

With the growing popularity of RTD products and the fact that these items are often sold in the same container type as Beer, consumers are increasingly confused and frustrated in their understanding of which items can be returned for refund, and which cannot. This change will help address this consumer confusion and in turn limit the effort for Retail Beer Vendors to sort RTD containers out of the items returned by a customer.

In addition, the deposit program currently applied to Beer is successful in keeping empty containers out of the residential waste system; expanding container deposits to comparable RTD formats will help reduce litter in cities, towns, and communities throughout Manitoba.

What is changing on July 1st?

- Commercial and public customers will be charged a refundable container deposit for applicable RTD and Beer containers at time of purchase. These containers will be redeemable when customers return them for a deposit refund.

To support the container deposit program, all products with applicable formats will have the “Empty Container Handling Fee” applied to its pricing. This fee offsets the handling payments made to hotel beer vendors for managing empty containers.

For complete details of the liquor pricing calculator and its components, please refer to the [Pricing Information Manual](#) published on the MBLL Partners site.

Empty Container Handling Fee WILL be applied to the following Formats			
Container Format	Size	Handling Fee	Container Deposit
Beer & RTD Aluminum Can	> 200 ml and < 2 L	\$0.35 / dozen	\$0.10
Beer & RTD Aluminum Can	≥ 2 L	\$0.35 / dozen	\$0.20
Beer & RTD PET Bottles	> 200 ml and < 2 L	\$0.35 /dozen	\$0.10
Beer & RTD PET Bottles	≥ 2 L	\$0.07 / each	\$0.20
Beer Glass	Any Size	\$0.35 / dozen	\$0.10
Beer & RTD Kegs	Any Size	NA	\$40.00

Empty Container Handling Fee WILL NOT be applied to the following Formats		
Container Format	Size	Handling Fee
Bag in Box (BIB), Non-Bottle Plastic & Tetra	Any Size	Not Applicable
Small Format Containers	≤200ml	Not Applicable
RTD Glass	Any Size	Not Applicable
Dealcoholized/Non-Alcohol	Any Size	Not Applicable
Wine & Spirits Containers	Any Size	Not Applicable

Next Steps:

MBLL is currently providing Suppliers and Industry Representatives with an opportunity to **re-quote invoice costs** for the purpose of adjusting the desired retail prices that will be impacted by the RTD container deposit expansion that will come into effect on July 1, 2026.

- If no change to the desired retail price is required, no action is necessary. Case costs will be automatically adjusted to maintain the current retail price.
- If a change is required, the **deadline for submission is 11:59 p.m. (CST) Sunday May 24, 2026.**

An updated [Trial Pricing Calculator](#) and [Price Change Request Form](#) are now available on the [MBLL Partners](#) website.

If you have any questions, please contact ProductManagementCoordination@mbll.ca

Thank you