

**To:** Liquor Commercial Partners  
**From:** Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries  
**Date:** April 28, 2026  
**RE:** Container Deposits Expanded to RTD Products

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## Container Deposits Expanded to RTD Products

**Effective July 1, 2026**, Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries (MBLL) will expand the container deposit program to include most formats of Ready-to-Drink (RTD) products including items such as ciders, coolers, pre-mixed cocktails, seltzers, and hard-teas. Currently, container deposits are only applied to beer products.

On June 4, 2026, all commercial retail partners will receive an updated pricing list identifying the items that will have a container deposit applied effective July 1, 2026.

### 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 do I need to know?

- Commercial and public customers will be charged a refundable container deposit for all applicable RTD and Beer containers at time of purchase. This deposit will be redeemable when the item is returned for refund to an authorized retailer.
- The list of RTD formats that will have a container deposit applied to them can be seen in the table below.
- As is done for Beer products today, Hotel Beer Vendors and rural Liquor Vendors are required to charge customers the applicable RTD container deposit at time of purchase. **Please ensure your POS (point of sale) system is updated by July 1, 2026**, to ensure container deposits can be applied to RTD products.
- Retail Beer Vendors are required by provincial Regulations to accept applicable empty containers and refund the deposit to the customer. This includes accepting products that may not have been purchased at your location. Retail Beer Vendors are only required to accept empty containers that had a deposit applied at the time of purchase; customers that attempt to

return non-refundable containers should be encouraged to recycle the item through the residential curb-side recycling system.

- Empty containers will continue to be collected by the distributor (BDL, WETT Sales, Fort Garry, others), and Gardewine in rural Manitoba. Please contact the applicable distributor if there are questions about sorting or pickup.
- MBLL will continue to compensate Retail Beer Vendors for collecting and managing empty containers. Effective July 1, 2026, retailers will be compensated at a rate of \$0.495 / dozen for glass and aluminum and \$0.16/dozen for PET containers; these values are revisited annually.

### Updated Container Deposit Program effective July 1, 2026:

Container Deposits WILL be applied to the following Formats		
Container Format	Size	Deposit Amount
Beer & RTD Aluminum Can	> 200 ml and < 2 L	\$0.10
Beer & RTD Aluminum Can	≥ 2 L	\$0.20
Beer & RTD PET Bottles	> 200 ml and < 2 L	\$0.10
Beer & RTD PET Bottles	≥ 2 L	\$0.20
<b>Beer</b> Glass	Any Size	\$0.10
Beer & RTD Kegs	All Sizes	\$40.00

Container Deposits WILL NOT be applied to the following Formats		
Container Format	Size	Deposit Amount
Bag in Box (BIB), Non-Bottle Plastic & Tetra	Any Size	Not Applicable
Small Format Containers	≤200ml	Not Applicable
<b>RTD</b> Glass	Any Size	Not Applicable
Dealcoholized/Non-Alcohol	Any Size	Not Applicable
Spirit and Wine Containers	Any Size	Not Applicable

### Next Steps:

- **June 4, 2026:** MBLL and Privately Distributed Price List Bulletins will identify all applicable products that have a refundable deposit.
- **July 1, 2026:** Container deposits will be applied to the sale of RTD formats noted above and charged to all public and commercial customer sales. All Retail Beer Vendors shall be required to accept empty RTD containers and issue a refund to customers in the same manner as is done for Beer returns today.