

Producer Responsibility Scheme on Glass Beverage Containers (GPRS)



Aims of GPRS

- In 2021, about 85 000 tonnes of waste glass containers was generated in HK. Among which, 65 000 tonnes was disposed of at landfills, accounting for 1.6% of the total quantity of municipal solid waste
- Enables the concerned parties to take up the **eco-responsibility** for proper collection and treatment of waste glass beverage containers, **turning the waste into resources** for alleviating the pressure on landfills



Main contents

- Appointing **Glass Management Contractors** through open tender to **provide waste glass container collection and treatment services** for Hong Kong Island (including Islands District), Kowloon and the New Territories regions respectively;
- In line with the “polluter pays” principle, **collecting a container recycling levy** from manufacturers and importers for glass-bottled beverages that they distribute or consume in Hong Kong to recover the full cost of operating the GPRS; and
- Introducing **licence control** on the disposal of waste glass containers and **permit control on their import and export** to ensure waste glass containers are processed in an environmentally sound manner.



Collection



Recycling



Treatment



Disposal



Progress

- Jun 2016 Passed Promotion of Recycling and Proper Disposal (Product Container) (Amendment) Ordinance 2016
- Nov 2017 Appointed Glass Management Contractors – HKI & NT
- Apr 2018 Appointed Glass Management Contractor – KLN
- From 2018 Glass Management Contractors provide waste glass collection and treatment services for Hong Kong
- Nov 2022 Passed Product Eco-responsibility (Regulated Articles) Regulation



Implementation arrangement

- 1 Feb 2023 **Accept registrations from suppliers**

- 1 May 2023 **Fully implement GPRS**
 - manufacturers and importers must first register with the EPD as “**registered suppliers**” before distributing any glass-bottled beverages in Hong Kong and fulfil its statutory obligations.
 - any person who stores, treats, reprocesses or recycles glass container waste must obtain a waste disposal licence
 - any person who imports into or exports from Hong Kong such waste must obtain the relevant import/export permit



Notes to Suppliers

- GPRS will be fully implemented on 1 May 2023
 - Importers and manufacturers register with EPD as **Registered Suppliers** from 1 February 2023
 - Registered Suppliers **pay container recycling levies** for regulated articles which are distributed and consumed in Hong Kong from 1 May 2023
 - Glass-bottled beverages are regarded as **regulated articles**



What is Regulated Article?

Beverages carried in sealed glass containers that are airtight and sealed by machine or with the aid of a tool



What is Beverage?

- A ready-to-serve drink
 - alcoholic drink;
 - water or water-based flavoured drink (carbonated or non-carbonated);
 - milk or dairy-based drink;
 - soybean-based drink;
 - fruit or vegetable juice or nectar;
 - coffee, coffee substitute, tea or herbal infusion; and
 - cereal grain drink;



What is Beverage?

- A product that
 - is a liquid or consists of liquid;
and
 - is commonly served as a drink
after being diluted or
reconstituted
 - Such as concentrated juice,
fruit vinegar, concentrated
citrus tea



Who Must Register?

- Suppliers have to register as a “Registered Suppliers”
- Suppliers include **manufacturers** and **importers** whose businesses include distribution of RAs in Hong Kong
- Excluding exporters, re-exporters, logistics service provider and retailers or wholesalers with no businesses involved in manufacture or import of RAs



Main Responsibilities of Suppliers

- Register with EPD as “Registered Supplier” (RA-1 form)
- Submit quarterly returns
- Pay container recycling levy
- Submit annual audit reports (except for exempted)
- Keep records and documents for 5 years



Supplier's Registration



香港特別行政區政府
The Government of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
環境保護署 Environmental Protection Department

表格 Form
RA-1

產品環保責任(受規管物品)規例 PRODUCT ECO-RESPONSIBILITY (REGULATED ARTICLES) REGULATION

申請成為登記供應商 Application for Registration as Registered Supplier

注意 在填寫本表格前，請先參閱「申請人須知」。請用正楷填寫，並在適當方格內填上✓號及在標註*號的項目刪去不適用者。
NOTE Please read the "Notes to Applicants" before completing this form. Please complete in BLOCK LETTERS, and enter ✓ in the appropriate boxes and delete inapplicable items marked with *.

甲部 供應商資料 Part A Supplier's Particulars	
業務實體類別： Type of Business Entity:	<input type="checkbox"/> 法人團體 → 請填寫甲(i)部 Body corporate → Please complete Part A(i) <input type="checkbox"/> 個人 → 請填寫甲(ii)部 Individual → Please complete Part A(ii) <input type="checkbox"/> 合夥/其他非法人團體 → 請填寫甲(iii)部 Partnership / Other unincorporated body → Please complete Part A(iii)
(i) 法人團體 (如適用) Body Corporate (if applicable)	
法團名稱 (英文): Corporate Name in English:	
法團名稱 (中文): Corporate Name in Chinese:	
註冊辦事處地址: Registered Office Address:	
(ii) 個人 (如適用) Individual (if applicable)	



Supplier's Registration

- Two types of registration –
 - **Ordinary Registration:** remain valid unless cancelled by EPD Director
 - **Short-term Registration:** valid for 30 days, mainly for overseas exhibitors
- Registration is free of charge
- A supplier must not hold the ordinary and short-term registrations concurrently



Returns Submission

- Submit periodic returns on the quantity of regulated articles distributed or consumed (in Litre) in Hong Kong

甲部 就受規管物品所作的申報 Part A Return in respect of Regulated Articles		
受規管物品的容積 (公升) Volume of Regulated Articles (Litre)	(1) 在香港製造 Manufactured in Hong Kong	(2) 輸入香港 Imported into Hong Kong
(A) 於申報期內在 香港分發 (不包括出口或轉口) Distributed in Hong Kong during the reporting period (excluding export or re-export)	(A1)	(A2)
(B) 於申報期內在 香港耗用 ^[2] Consumed ^[2] in Hong Kong during the reporting period	(B1)	(B2)
總和 Total	(A1) + (A2) + (B1) + (B2)	

Definitions

1. Volume of Regulated Articles (Litre) = reference to litre volume of the product contained in the container
2. Distribute, in relation to a regulated article, means—
 - (a) sell the article;
 - (b) exchange or dispose of the article for consideration; or
 - (c) give the article to another person as a prize or gift,
3. Consume (耗用), in relation to a regulated article, means—
 - (a) open the container that constitutes the article for the first time after the container is sealed; or
 - (b) abandon the article;



Returns Submission

- Ordinary registration (RA-2a form)
 - Submit quarterly returns within 28 days after the quarterly cut-off dates falling on 31 March, 30 June, 30 September or 31 December
- Short-term registration (RA-2b form)
 - Submit a return within 28 days after the expiry date of the registration



Container Recycling Levy

- Levy level at \$0.98 per litre-volume of container
- Payable only once in respect of any regulated article
- Levy payable determined according to the return submitted
- Payment notice to be served to suppliers
- Pay the container recycling levy within 30 days after the payment notice was served



Report Submission

- Ordinary registration (RA-3a form)
 - Submit audit report within 3 months after the annual audit date falling on 31 March, 30 June, 30 September or 31 December

丙部 申請登記類別 (只可選擇下列其中一項登記類別)	
Part C Type of Registration Application (select only one type of registration below)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 一般登記 Ordinary Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 申請的登記生效日期： Effective Date of registration applied for: _____ (日 dd / 月 mm / 年 yyyy)• 選擇的周年審計日期： Annual Audit Date selected: <input type="checkbox"/> 3月31日 <input type="checkbox"/> 6月30日 <input type="checkbox"/> 9月30日 <input type="checkbox"/> 12月31日 31st March 30th June 30th September 31st December

- Short-term registration (RA-3b form)
 - Submit audit report within 3 months after the expiry date of the registration



Audit Report

- To be prepared by a **certified public accountant (practising)**
- The accountant must not be an employee of the registered supplier
- Set out any discrepancy found in a **discrepancy list**, attached to the audit report
- The Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA) published [“Circular on Reporting under Section 20 of the Product Eco-responsibility \(Regulated Articles\) Regulation \(Cap. 603C\)”](#)



Audit Report

- Paragraph 17 of the Circular – information to be provided by Registered Supplier to the accountant for preparing the audit report on submitted returns:
 - a) listings of the quantities of RAs by litre volume as required under section 14 of the Regulation, which the total litre volumes on the listings agree to those stated in the Return;
 - b) a reconciliation between the opening and closing quantities of the Registered Supplier's RAs manufactured or imported into Hong Kong by litre volume, with movements showing RAs distributed or consumed in Hong Kong or exported out of Hong Kong by the Registered Supplier during the reporting period; and
 - c) the Registered Supplier's accounting records, for example, the inventory record, which could be agreed to details in the listing in (a) and the reconciliation in (b) above.



Audit Exemption (Not Levy Exemption)

- May apply for exemption from the audit requirement if the aggregate container recycling levy payable in a particular audit year (ordinary registration) / in the same registration year (short-term registration) does not exceed \$20,000
 - Ordinary registration: Within 1 month after the last day of the particular audit year (RA-5 Form)
 - Short-term registration: Within 1 month after the expiry date of the registration (RA-2b Form)



Record Keeping

- Keep prescribed records and documents relating to a return for 5 years after the year of the submission of the return
- Relevant records and document include records, invoices, receipts, delivery notes, inventory records or any other documents that contain sufficient details to enable EPD to readily verify the information covered by a return



Change of Information

- Use RA-7 form to change information
- Change of address
 - Submit within 7 days for suppliers pending registration approval
 - Submit within 30 days for registered suppliers



Penalty

Distributing regulated articles without the registration	A fine at level 6 (HK\$100,000)
Not periodically submitting return(s)	On the first conviction – a fine at level 6 (HK\$100,000); On a subsequent conviction – a fine of HK\$200,000
Not paying the container recycling levy stated in the payment notice within the prescribed period	
Not keeping the prescribed records and documents for 5 years	A fine of level 5 (HK\$50,000)
Not submitting an audit report	
Not notifying the EPD of the change of address within the prescribed period	A fine of level 2 (HK\$5,000)



Cancellation of Registration

- Submit RA-8 Form as soon as possible for application for cancellation of registration
- Submit the last return within 28 days and an audit report within 3 months after the cancellation date



Summary

	Ordinary Registration	Short-term Registration	Form
Validity	Remain valid	30 days	RA-1
Return submission	Within 28 days after quarterly cut-off dates	Within 28 days after the expiry date of the registration	RA-2a/RA-2b
Levy payment	Within 30 days after the day on which the payment notice was served		
Audit report submission	Within 3 months after the annual audit date	Within 3 months after the expiry date of the registration	RA-3a/RA-3b
Audit exemption	Within 1 month after the last day of the particular audit year	Within 1 month after the expiry date of the registration	RA-5
Change of address	Within 30 days after the change (within 7 days for suppliers pending registration approval)		RA-7
Cancellation of registration	As soon as possible		RA-8

RA-1 Form

- 5 parts in RA-1 form
 - Part A: Supplier's Particulars
 - Part B: Business Information
 - Part C: Type of Registration Application
 - Part D: Contact Information
 - Part E: Declaration



RA-1 Form

Business Entity	Copy of Business Registration Certificate	Copy of HKID	Signing RA-1 by owners or partners
Body Corporate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Individual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Partnership/ Unincorporated body	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agent (if any)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	



Registration Submission

- Online submission

<https://raims.epd.gov.hk/raims/>



Registration Submission

- Online submission
- By post to EPD (Room 601-603, 6/F, Chinachem Exchange Square, 1 Hoi Wan Street, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong) with indication of Producer Responsibility Scheme on Glass Beverage Containers (GPRS) on the envelop
- In person to EPD offices in Wanchai, Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon Bay, Quarry Bay, Tsuen Wan or Shatin



Enquiry



5200 0767



GPRS@thewgo.org



References



[Information Booklet
for Suppliers](#)



[EPD website](#)

