



Guidance on PETCANS containers for first responsible suppliers (FRS) under the container deposit scheme



What are PETCANS

PETCANS are dual-material beverage containers consisting of:

- a polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic body, and
- an aluminium top sealed to the plastic body.

Because these materials are permanently bonded, the container cannot be effectively separated during standard recycling processes.



Figure 1: PETCANS product example

Purpose

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) is providing this guidance to inform FRS that PETCANS containers are likely to be refused a container approval for the Western Australian container deposit scheme (CDS).

Background

Under section 47E of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* a first responsible beverage supplier must have a supply agreement with the scheme coordinator, a container approval, a barcode and a refund mark for each beverage product.





Why are PETCANS likely to be refused container approval

Under **regulation 3J – Criteria for grant of container approval**, the CEO may grant a container approval only if satisfied that:

- the container type is capable of being recycled or reused; and
- the labelling and refund mark do not affect the container's recyclability or contaminate the recycling stream.

Under **regulation 3K – Grounds for refusal of container approval**, the CEO may refuse approval if:

- an equivalent approval has been refused, suspended or cancelled;
- the container, while technically recyclable, is **not suitable** for recycling or reuse; or
- effective and appropriate arrangements are **not available** for the container to be collected, sorted and recycled or reused on an ongoing basis.

PETCANS present a contamination risk due to their mixed material construction. The bonded PET and aluminium components cannot be separated through existing CDS collection and sorting systems.

As a result:

- PETCANS are likely to be rejected during recycling as contamination; and
- rejected containers are diverted to landfill rather than recycled.

For these reasons, PETCANS are unlikely to meet the eligibility criteria under regulations 3J and 3K.

What this means for first responsible suppliers

- PETCANS containers are unlikely to be eligible for CDS participation in Western Australia.
- Applications submitted to WARRRL for PETCANS will likely be refused.
- Beverage products without a container approval cannot be supplied in WA.



Container review and contact details

For further information about the container deposit scheme contact DWER

Email: cds@dwer.wa.gov.au

Containers for Change is administered by an independent not for profit scheme coordinator, WA Return Recycle Renew Ltd (WARRRL).

WARRRL can assist with container registration and CDS requirements in Western Australia:

- Email: commercial@warrri.com.au or frswa@containersforchange.com.au
- Phone: 13 42 42
- Website: <https://warrri.com.au/first-responsible-suppliers/>

