

567—107.8(455C) Interpretive rules.

107.8(1) Beverage containers “sold” on interstate carriers. It is common practice for interstate carriers to provide or sell soft drinks, beer, wine, or alcoholic liquor to passengers for consumption on the conveyance. Such containers are not a litter problem and their return would be impractical. Since statutes should be construed to avoid a strained or impractical result, the commission believes that control of the beverage containers “sold” on interstate carriers is beyond the objectives sought to be obtained by the Act and that these containers are not subject to the deposit and labeling requirements of the Act.

107.8(2) Beverage containers must be reasonably intact. In order to be redeemed, an empty beverage container must be returned reasonably intact. For a refillable beverage container, the container must hold liquid, be able to be resealed and be in its original shape. A nonrefillable glass container may be chipped, but it may not have the bottom broken out or the neck broken off. A nonrefillable metal container may be dented or partially crushed, but may not be crushed flat. A returned beverage container should be able to stand on its own base.

107.8(3) Vending machines.

a. When a beverage container is dispensed from a vending machine in exchange for money, there is presumed to be a sale of a beverage in a beverage container to a consumer. Therefore some person must be the “dealer” who is responsible for collecting the deposit at the time of sale and for refunding the deposit when the empty beverage container is returned. Because of the variety of contractual relationships surrounding operation of a vending machine, the person who is the “dealer” might be the owner of the vending machine, the lessee of the vending machine, the owner of the premises on which the vending machine is located, or the person who stocks the vending machine. It is incumbent upon the parties involved in the operation of a vending machine to determine the person who is the “dealer” and to indicate prominently on the vending machine the name, location and normal operating hours of the dealer (or an approved redemption center) if the dealer does not have personnel on its premises.

b. If the vending machine is located on premises where personnel of the dealer are not normally working, there is no obligation to provide personnel to redeem beverage containers at the site of the vending machine. However, the “dealer” must provide for redemption of beverage containers at the dealer’s usual working place.

107.8(4) Transfer tanks, premix tanks and beer kegs. Because transfer tanks, premix tanks and beer kegs (half-kegs, quarter kegs or pony kegs) are refillable, are returned to distributors and are not a litter problem, the commission believes that control of these containers is beyond the objectives sought to be obtained by the Act and that these containers are not subject to the deposit and labeling requirements of the Act.

107.8(5) Return limits. Dealers may limit the number of containers returned by an individual to 120 containers in a 24-hour period. Redemption centers may limit the number of containers returned by an individual to 500 containers in a 24-hour period.

107.8(6) Hours of returns for dealers. A dealer, unless exempted pursuant to 107.4(4), must accept returns, at a minimum, from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. unless the dealer’s operating hours are shorter, in which case returns shall be limited to the dealer’s hours of operation. If a dealer chooses to limit the hours of returns, the dealer must post a sign stating the hours during which beverage containers are accepted for return.

107.8(7) A dealer shall provide to the department upon request the name, telephone number and address of the distributor of any or all beverages sold by the dealer.