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**DATE:** February 22, 2019

**TO:** Depot Network

**RE:** **New Process For Recycling Craft Brewery Off-Spec Containers**

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Attention Depot Operators and Staff,

There has been an increase noted in the frequency of attempts by Alberta Brewers to return Off-Spec Containers to Depots. Off-spec containers may be damaged or in some other way rejects from the filling line and may also appear to be registered in the Registrations Database but are not in fact deposit bearing as they have never contained a beverage. Depots should follow the process outlined below if these containers arrive at your location.

- 1) Direct Small Brewers to contact ABCRC directly at [abcrc.com](http://abcrc.com) or 1.800.267.4130.
- 2) Depots should not be the destination for Off-Spec Containers, but the Depot may assist in the collection and facilitate the coordination of the transportation to ABCRC based on prior arrangement between ABCRC and the Brewery.
- 3) If Off-Spec Containers are returned to a Depot, these containers should be treated by the Depot as Non-Beverage Containers. They should not be accepted for refund, however, a Container Validation Request (CVR) Form should be submitted to BCMB through the Quality Monitoring System (QMS) to log the incident.

To assist in identification of Off-Spec Containers if they arrive at your Depot, please note the following red flags:

- Large number of the same containers
- Missing tops or unsealed
- Unopened and empty
- Unlabeled
- Clean or pristine, as though they have never contained a beverage
- Damaged in a consistent manner

The process for Off-Spec Containers was shared with both Alberta Small Brewers Association (ASBA) for distribution among members and the Depot network. The ASBA has been provided the following instructions:





- 1) If you have Craft Brewery Off-Spec Containers that you would like to dispose of, contact ABCRC directly at [abcrc.com](http://abcrc.com) or 1.800.267.4130.
- 2) As these containers have not entered the Deposit System, these containers do not carry a deposit and cannot be refunded. Any attempt to do so will be in contravention of the Beverage Container Recycling Regulation and BCMB By-laws and would be subject to applicable fines and penalties up to \$500,000.
- 3) ASBA members should expect Depots to require them to contact ABCRC and receive approval before accepting any Craft Brewery Off-Spec Containers.
- 4) Depots may assist in the collection and facilitate the coordination of the transportation to ABCRC based on prior arrangement between ABCRC and the Brewery.
- 5) In the event that there are challenges in contacting ABCRC or working with a Depot, please contact BCMB through our website at [www.bcmb.ab.ca](http://www.bcmb.ab.ca).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the BCMB.

