



DATE: October 17, 2022

TO: Depot Network

RE: **Off-Spec & Expired/Stale-dated Material**

Attention depot operators and staff,

Recently we have been seeing an increase in non-deposit material being brought into Depots for refund. Specifically, off-spec material and expired/stale-dated material. This material can come directly from manufacturers or individuals. Most recently, we have been seeing this material being donated to fundraising groups or brought in by regular customers who have obtained it from a manufacturer. Both types of containers are typically non-deposit bearing because they have either never been filled or have not made their way through the system to an end consumer for consumption. Therefore, manufacturers have not remitted deposit fees for them since they have not been sold. Both off-spec and expired/stale-dated material can come from established manufacturers who have registered their products for sale in Alberta, so finding these containers in the portal is not an indication of their deposit status. Rather, Depot staff must be aware of red flags that may indicate that a container is off-spec or expired/stale-dated and must follow the CVR Process for containers that match those descriptions.

Red flags for Off-Spec Containers include:

- Large numbers of the same container
- For aluminum - missing tops or unsealed
- For Gable Top – Flattened, unsealed
- Unopened and empty
- Unlabeled or missing best before dates
- Clean or pristine, as though they have never contained a beverage
- Damaged in a consistent manor (rejects from a filling line)

Red flags for Expired/Stale-dated Containers include:

- Large numbers of the same container
 - Same brand, flavor and best before dates
- Unopened containers still full of liquid





It is crucial to have the BCMB verify the status of these containers as they are typically returned in very large quantities and can pose a significant financial risk to the system. If off-spec material or expired/stale-dated material is found shipped to ABCRC without BCMB approval, the Depot responsible may become the subject of a Compliance Review.

If containers matching the above descriptions are brought into your Depot, please submit a Container Validation Request (CVR) via the Quality Monitoring System (QMS) with pictures of the material and as much detail about the customer and container origin as possible. Please quarantine the containers and do not provide a refund or ship the containers to ABCRC until advised by BCMB. Please provide the customer with the BCMB phone number so they can contact us if they have any questions.

If a customer wishes to leave with the product, they may do so but please make note of the encounter and notify BCMB via QMS. We will use whatever details you are able to provide to send out a Depot Notification as soon as possible.

If you have any questions about off-spec, expired/stale-dated material or the CVR process, please reach out to a member of the BCMB Compliance Team. We are happy to help answer any questions you may have.

Toll Free: 1-888-424-7671

Phone: 780-424-3193

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