



Marking guidelines

ALUMINIUM BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

1 GENERAL

An aluminium beverage container can be registered in PALPA's deposit-based recycling system only if it meets certain size and shape requirements and can be reliably identified as a deposit-based container by reverse vending machines or in manual returning stations.

The purpose of this document is to provide beverage importers and manufacturers with guidelines on the design of the shape and appearance of deposit-based containers.



2 CONTAINER SHAPE AND SIZE

Reverse vending machines identify beverage containers returned by consumers by the barcode and the profile of the can or aluminium bottle. PALPA maintains a list of aluminium container profiles that accepted and programmed into the machines. If the profile of a container is new and not included in the list, it needs to be programmed and distributed into the reverse vending machines to ensure correct identification. Profile programming is carried out by machine suppliers, and the costs arising from programming and distribution are to be paid by the Deposit Payer that brings the new profile into the market.

If the shape or dimensions of the container change, the Deposit Payer must consult PALPA and the machine suppliers to determine whether the product needs to be re-registered under a new code.

Aluminium bottles may only be accepted into the recycling system on a case by case basis following reverse vending machine tests. These tests are carried out to ensure that containers will not cause problems in any reverse vending machines and their background handling equipment.

3 BARCODE

Containers to be registered in the recycling system must have a barcode. Because the barcode is scanned automatically by reverse vending machines, special attention must be paid to its location, size and quality. The quality standard of the barcode must be at least ANSI C. The Deposit Payer is responsible for ensuring that all product batches placed on the market have a barcode that can be identified by reverse vending machines.

Containers registered in the deposit-based recycling system may only be sold with this unique barcode only in Finland. No barcode that has been previously used elsewhere may be used on a deposit-based beverage container, and no barcode which has been previously used on a deposit-based beverage container may be used on other (non-deposit) products.

The barcode type may be EAN 8, EAN 13, UPC A or UPC E. The barcode must be printed on the container vertically (ladder orientation) with horizontal bars and spaces. The barcode must be in the nominal size (magnification factor 1.0).

The barcode must be placed near the bottom of the can, but its minimum distance from the bottom of the container is 10 mm (8 mm from the bottom of the printed area).

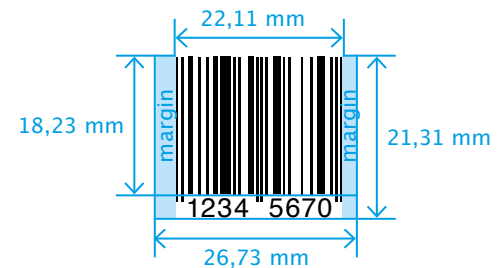
4 DEPOSIT SYMBOL

Consumers are able to recognize a deposit-based container on the basis of PALPA's deposit symbol. The minimum size of the symbol is 8 mm x 11 mm, and its colour may be adjusted to the colours of the container. A good contrast and a single-coloured background make it easier to notice the symbol. PALPA recommends that the deposit symbol be placed near the barcode.

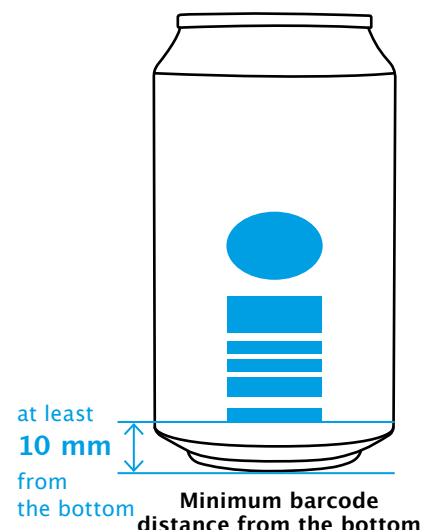
The deposit value is determined by the Decree on beverage containers. The deposit value of cans and aluminium bottles is €0.15.



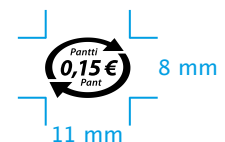
EAN 13 code dimensions



EAN 8 code dimensions



Minimum barcode distance from the bottom



Minimum permitted size of the deposit symbol



Recommended deposit symbol location

5 MATERIAL SYMBOL

An aluminium container must have an indication of the container material. The minimum size of the symbol is 4 mm x 5 mm.

OTHER RELATED INSTRUCTIONS

- Registration to PALPA's deposit-based recycling system
- Price list
- Sending samples
- Programmed aluminium container profiles



**Minimum permitted size
of the material symbol**