EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE

WHAT IS A DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME (DRS)?

A Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) is designed to boost recycling and cut down on litter. It works by adding a deposit to the price of in-scope drinks containers, which consumers get back when they return the empty container for recycling.

WHO IS EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE?

Exchange for Change is a not-for-profit body formed by industry, for industry, and appointed to administer the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) across England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The DRS is a statutory scheme established by government. Exchange for Change is responsible for designing and operating it in accordance with that legislation, working alongside producers, retailers, wholesalers and hospitality businesses to ensure the scheme is delivered clearly, consistently and effectively.

HOW A DRS WORKS?

STEP 1
DEPOSIT

Customers pay a deposit on each product at purchase.

STEP 2
RETURN

The deposit is refunded when the empty container is returned.

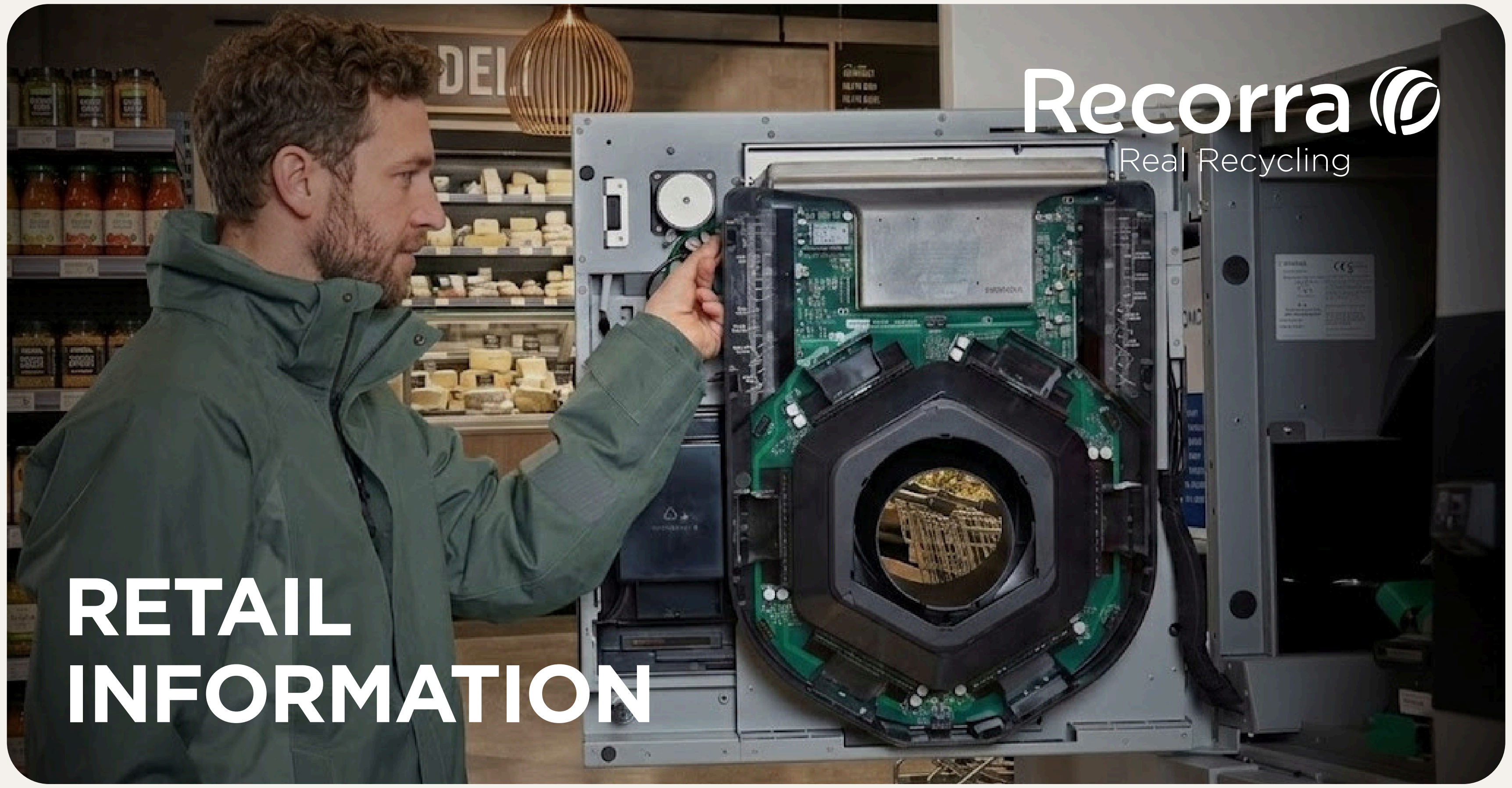
STEP 3
RECYCLED

The returned material is collected and recycled.

MATERIALS IN SCOPE

PET, ALUMINIUM STEEL

150ML – 3L



YOUR OBLIGATION AS A RETAILER

1
ALL RETAILERS THAT ARE NOT AUTOMATICALLY EXEMPTED MUST REGISTER WITH EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE VIA OUR WEBSITE.

Registration will open in Q3 2026. Exchange for Change will communicate the opening of the registration via various channels including our newsletter, trade press and social media.

2
GROCERIES RETAILERS MUST OPERATE A RETURN POINT

Automatic (Reverse Vending Machines): Investment upfront, but faster and better for busy locations. **Manual:** An option for smaller volume grocers.

3
ALL RETAILERS THAT ACT AS PRODUCERS MUST REGISTER WITH EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE VIA OUR WEBSITE.

Producers to pay deposit value & producer fee to Exchange for Change for each in-scope container placed on the market.

EXEMPTIONS CRITERIA

Small retailers: There is an exemption if retail selling space is less than 100m² in an urban area.
Other retailers: Exemption criteria to be confirmed in Q2.

Q1 2026 The RVM spec: supplied in Q4 2025

Q2 2026 Deposit value confirmed
Retail handling fee confirmation
Exemptions criteria

Q3 2026 Registration period open