

Government of Himachal Pradesh
Department of Environment, Sci. Tech. & Climate Change

No. STE-F(4)-2/2021

Dated: Shimla-2

16th June, 2025.

NOTIFICATION

In pursuance of Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) guidelines (reference guideline sr. no. 10.5) under Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 amended time to time by MoEF & CC, Gol, the Governor, Himachal Pradesh is pleased to make the following scheme for regulating and providing a mechanism for collection of Non-Biodegradable packaging waste as per the polluters pay principle to prevent littering or disposing of Non-Biodegradable Garbage in public drains, roads and places open to public view in the State of Himachal Pradesh and ensuring proper recycling of collected waste to promote circular economy within the State of Himachal Pradesh.

Provisions of the Himachal Pradesh Deposit Refund Scheme (DRS), 2025

PART I-GENERAL

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| Short title, Extent and Commencement | 1. 1) The Scheme may be called the Himachal Pradesh Deposit Refund Scheme, 2025.
2) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification, in the Official Gazette appoint
3) It shall extend to the whole State of Himachal Pradesh. |
| Application of the Scheme | 2. The provisions of this Scheme shall apply to;
Liquor and non-liquor in glass bottles, plastic beverage containers, aluminium beverage containers, liquid packaging board (e.g. tetra pack), flexible plastic packaging, and multilayered packaging;
Or any such product as maybe notified by the Scheme Administrator from time to time |
| Definitions | 3. 1) In this Scheme, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context :-
a. ' Act ' means the Himachal Pradesh Non-Biodegradable Garbage (Control) Act, 1995;
b. ' Annual Scheme Participation Fee ' or ' ASPF ' means the annual fees charged from the manufacturers for the purpose of registration and participation in the DRS as per the procedure specified by Scheme Administrator;
c. ' Banks ' means the Financial Institutions that are listed under Schedule II of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934;
d. ' Collection Point ' means an authorized location where a redeemer can return their DRS product to claim the |

- refundable deposit secured on the DRS product;
- e. **'Distributor'** means a business entity including but not limited to super stockists, and wholesalers that sell packaged goods to retailers for sale towards final consumption. The Distributor typically operates at a higher level of the supply chain than the retailer and may be responsible for importing, storing and distributing the package goods to retailers;
 - f. **'Deposit'** means a fully refundable amount secured additionally over the price paid for the DRS product;
 - g. **'Depositor'** means a person who pays a refundable deposit over the price paid for the DRS product;
 - h. **'Deposit Refund Scheme' or 'DRS'** means a process or scheme where a refundable deposit secured on a DRS product shall be refunded on the return of the product at the collection point to a Redeemer.
 - i. **'DRS Product'** means a product made of Non-Biodegradable Material specified in the Schedule of the Act; and used for the purpose of packing the commodity suitable for sale in the State of Himachal Pradesh;
 - j. **EPR "Extended Producer Responsibility"** means the responsibility of a producer for the environmentally sound management of the product until the end of its life;
 - k. **'Escrow Account'** means an escrow bank account opened and operated by the bank for receiving amounts related to Escrow Bank Account opened and operated by the bank independently on behalf of the Scheme Administrator as per the terms and conditions agreed between the Scheme Administrator, the Scheme Operator and such Bank with whom the Escrow Bank Account is opened. This account will be used for receiving deposits for
 - i) Refundable deposit secured under DRS
 - ii) Annual Scheme Participation Fee (ASPF)
 - iii) Reverse Collection Fee (RCF)
 - iv) Penalties charged under this Scheme
 - v) Any other amount related to DRS as may be specified by Scheme administrator
 - l. **'Handling Fee'** means a fee paid to the authorized collection point by the Scheme Operator to handle the collection mechanism under this Scheme;
 - m. **'Manufacturer'** means a brand owner or importer or producer who introduce DRS product in the state of Himachal Pradesh;
 - n. **'Non-recyclable Product'** means a DRS product which is not fit for "Recycling".



- o. **'Official Gazette'** means the Official Gazette of the Himachal Pradesh State Government;
- p. **'Property'** shall include, but not be limited to, all Products, Recyclable Products, Non-Recyclable Products, any assets utilized for DRS including money or valuable security, belonging to, or in the charge or possession of, Scheme Administrator;
- q. **'Recycling'** means any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes, but it does not include energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or for backfilling operations;
- r. **'Recycler'** are entities who are engaged in the process of recycling of DRS Product;
- s. **'Retailer'** means a business entity that sells products packaged in Non-Biodegradable Packaging for final consumption ;
- t. **'Redeemer'** means a person who claims the refundable deposit amount secured on a DRS Product upon its return;
- w. **'Reverse Collection Fee'** means an amount charged from manufacturers for collection, sorting and recycling of material introduced and creating awareness among stakeholders in the State of Himachal Pradesh, or such incidental activities as may be notified from time to time;
- x. **'Recyclable DRS Product'** means DRS Product which is fit for Recycling;
- y. **'State Government'** means the State Government of Himachal Pradesh.
- z. **'Scheme administrator'** means an entity, person or authority or agency appointed as Scheme Administrator by the Government as per the provisions of this notification;
- aa. **'Scheme Operator'** means a person, company or organization i.e. authorized by the Scheme Administrator to implement the deposit refund scheme in the State of Himachal Pradesh;
- bb. **'Unique Serialised Identifier'** or USI is a unique identification or any similar marking printed on DRS product and is secured with a refundable deposit which may be refunded upon the return of the DRS product within a validity period;
- cc. **'Un-redeemed Deposit'** means a deposit secured on a DRS product and has not been claimed within the validity period of the Unique Serialized Identifier against which



such deposits were secured and appropriated.

- 2) Words and expressions used herein and not defined but defined in the Himachal Pradesh Non-Biodegradable Garbage (Control) Act, 1995 shall have the same meaning respectively assigned to them in that Act.

PART II-GENERAL CONDITIONS

4.
 - 1) Manufacturers, distributors and retailers selling or introducing products packaged in non-biodegradable packaging shall be mandated to secure a deposit on such DRS product at the time of sale, distribution or introduction of DRS product in the market;
 - 2) The deposit to be secured shall be collected at first level and shall be transferred at each distribution level until the final consumer;
 - 3) The Deposit secured on the DRS product shall be exempted from commercial taxes, duties, levies, etc and shall not form part of the MRP charged to the customers;
 - 4) Such collected deposit shall be deposited in an escrow account created for the purpose of DRS;
 - 5) Retailers shall take all necessary actions to spread awareness on DRS through clearly legible and visible signs in their business premises;
 - 6) Manufacturers shall provide the information related to Deposit separately , on the labels (print or emboss) of the DRS product;
 - 7) The Deposit shall be fully refunded to the redeemer, at no cost, upon acceptance of the DRS product at the collection point;
 - 8) The obligation to accept any such returned packaging shall be limited to packaging material of the type that has been specified in the Schedule 1 of the Act;
 - 9) After this Scheme have come into effect, with respect to DRS products introduced in the market, there shall be collection target obligations from the year as may be notified by the Scheme Administrator from time to time ;
 - 10) In case of conflict with the objective of this Scheme with any other scheme or bye-laws in the State; this scheme shall prevail over such scheme.

PART III-ESTABLISHMENT AND CONSTITUTION

**High
Committee**

Powered

5.
 - 1) The State Government shall constitute a high-powered Committee to advise the State Government on such matters arising out of the administration of the Scheme as may be



referred to it by the Government, including matters relating to the implementation and management of the DRS;

High Powered Committee

#	Designation and Department	As Designated
1.	Chief Secretary to the GoHP	Chairperson
2.	Admn. Secy (UD) to the GoHP	Member
3.	Admn. Secy (RD) to the GoHP	Member
4.	Admn. Secy (PWD) to the GoHP	Member
5.	Admn. Secy (Forest) to the GoHP	Member
6.	Admn. Secy (Tourism) to the GoHP	Member
7.	Admn. Secy (Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs) to the GoHP	Member
8.	Admn. Secy (Fin. & Planning) to the GoHP	Member
9.	Admn. Secy (Industries) to the GoHP	Member
10.	Admn. Secy (Excise & Taxation) to the GoHP	Member
11.	Admn. Secy (Health) to the GoHP	Member
12.	Admn. Secy (EST&CC) to the GoHP	Convener

Powers and Duties of the High Powered Committee

6. 1) The Chief Secretary of the State of Himachal Pradesh shall be the Chairperson of the high powered Committee;
- 2) The high-powered committee shall formulate and recommend policies, guidelines and procedures for the implementation of the DRS within the jurisdiction of the State Government;
- 3) The high-powered committee shall constitute the scheme administrator and appoint the vacant positions on the board of scheme administrator
- 4) Monitoring and evaluation of DRS performance annually.

Scheme Administrator

7. 1) The board of the society (not for profit entity) is termed as Scheme Administrator.
- 2) The Scheme Administrator shall consists the following

#	Designation and Department	As Designated
1.	Admn. Secretary (Env., Sci. Tech & Climate Change) to the GoHP	Chairperson
2.	Director (UD)	Member
3.	Director (RD)	Member
4.	E-n-C (PWD)	Member
5.	PCCF (Forest)	Member
6.	Director (Tourism)	Member
7.	Director (Food Civil Supplies & Consumer	Member

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	Affairs)	
8.	Director Advisor (Fin. & Planning)	Member
9.	Director (Industries)	Member
10.	Commissioner (Excise & Taxation) to the GoHP	Member
11.	MS (PCB)	Member
12.	Director (TCP)	Member
13.	Director (Health)	Member
14.	Director (IPR)	Member
15.	Member Secretary (SPCB)	Member
16.	MD Milkfed	Member
17.	Director (EST&CC)	Convener

Powers and Duties of the Scheme Administrator

8. 1) The Scheme Administrator shall be responsible for the implementation of the Scheme;
- 2) The Scheme Administrator shall create a separate fund as may be required in this Scheme;
- 3) The Chairperson shall administer the functioning of the DRS and ensure free flow by creating necessary policy development and amendments ;
- 4) The Convener shall promote awareness campaigns for propagating the Deposit Refund Scheme in the State with the help of high powered Members;
- 5) The Secretary shall convene the meetings of the high-powered Committee at least four times a year at such time and place as agreed by the Chairperson ;
- 6) The quorum necessary for the transaction of a business at a meeting of the high-powered Committee shall be four ;
- 7) The Chairperson when present shall preside at every meeting of the Committee and in his absence the senior most Member and in the absence of both any other Member shall preside at such meeting;
- 8) Save as otherwise provided in the Scheme, all questions that come up before any meeting of the Committee shall be decided by a majority of Members present and voting. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.
- 9) The Scheme Administrator shall provide provisions for the appointment and appoint a Scheme Operator with the approval of Chairperson for the purpose of implementation of the Deposit Refund Scheme in the State;
- 10) The Scheme Administrator shall have the powers, rights and authority to dispose of and channelize the collected DRS product either by Scheme Operator himself or through Scheme Operator;
- 11) The Scheme Administrator shall notify the deposit value of

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each item specified in the schedule of the Act including any new item added from time to time;

- 12) The Scheme Administrator where it is expedient to do so may add or omit any product category from the category of products under the Deposit Refund Scheme through a notification;
- 13) The Scheme Administrator where it is expedient to do so shall prescribe the refundable deposit value on the DRS products through a notification;
- 14) The Scheme Administrator shall prescribe the registration process for the manufacturers to comply with the obligation of the Scheme;
- 15) The Scheme Administrator shall mandate the printing of Unique Serialised Identifier on the DRS product by the manufacturers ;
- 16) The Scheme Administrator shall form or designate a society (Not for profit organization) or for the purpose of managing DRS escrow account
- 17) The Scheme Administrator shall monitor the operation of the escrow account designated for the purpose of the Deposit Refund Scheme in the State.
- 18) The Scheme Administrator shall develop the Memorandum for the registration of manufacturers and conducting business of the Board of Society.
- 19) The Scheme Administrator shall appoint such persons as required for the effective implantation of the Scheme as well as the effective functioning of the State Pollution Control Board.
- 20) The Scheme Administrator shall collect, use, process, store, transfer all information collected under this Scheme as per the applicable Data Protection laws in India.
- 21) The Scheme Administrator shall ensure that a gradual/ phased manner mechanism is adopted for smooth and sustainable implementation of DRS scheme e.g. under the scheme liquor bottles, cans can be prioritized in first phase.
- 22) The Scheme Administrator shall ensure that some brand, type specific pilots are also undertaken after identifying the brands.

Scheme Operator

9.
 - 1) The Scheme Operator shall establish infrastructure including but not limited to collection, segregation, storage, transportation and disposal of the material collected through the Deposit Refund Scheme;
 - 2) The Scheme Operator shall deploy the digital applications, interface and procedure for securing the deposit and ensuring refund of the deposit under Deposit Refund Scheme;



- 3) The Scheme Operator shall provide technology and support for printing and integration of Unique Serialised Identification to the manufacturers for the purpose of securing deposit;
- 4) The Scheme Operator shall run and operate DRS at the State level in a manner that DRS shall be self-sustained by the value of collected material or any other fees as may be notified by Scheme Administrator from time to time;
- 5) The Scheme Operator shall provide state of art technical support for grievance redressal and queries;
- 6) The Scheme Operator shall establish collection points, define a collection mechanism, develop a reverse logistics mechanism of the collected DRS products
- 7) The Scheme Operator shall have the absolute rights over the collected DRS product;
- 8) The Scheme Operator shall ensure that the collected and segregated DRS products are recycled at the recycling or disposal facilities registered with the Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board.

Provided that the Scheme Operator shall be authorized to channelize and dispose the collected DRS product with the recyclers authorized under any of the State Pollution Control Board of India;

- 9) The Scheme Operator shall ensure that all the collected DRS products shall be disposed of in an environmentally sound manner;
- 10) The Scheme Operator shall create dashboards for information dissemination and monitoring;
- 11) The Scheme Operator shall take all actions as may be required towards integration of the informal sector into the Deposit Refund Scheme for the economic and social empowerment of the informal sector in consultation with the Scheme Administrator.
- 12) The Scheme Operator shall place collection centers at as many as public convenient places so as to ease of access of consumer or end user.
- 13) The Scheme Operator shall formulate SOPs for waste pickers, and shall ensure the incentives over and above to costs of material collected sold by waste pickers out of the ESCROW account. Some space and temporary locations are allotted for these waste pickers.
- 14) The Scheme Operator shall pay the handling fee to these collection points to promote the collection of DRS product by paying a handling fee to the collection points. Such handling fees paid by the scheme operator to the said collection points shall be reimbursed from the unredeemed deposit, if available. In case of non-availability of Unredeemed

**Responsibilities of
Urban Local Bodies,
Gram Panchayats,
and Himachal
Pradesh Forest
Department, SPCB**

- Deposits, Scheme operators do not have any rights to claim the handling fee from Scheme Administrator.
10. 1) The Urban Local Bodies, Gram Panchayats, Himachal Pradesh Forest Department or any similar administrative body shall provide space for the development of collection points and material recovery facilities at their geographical jurisdiction;
 - 2) The Urban Local Bodies, Gram Panchayats, Himachal Pradesh Forest Department or any similar administrative body shall monitor that all the DRS products sold in the State are secured by refundable deposit;
 - 3) Identify and appoint a nodal officer to assist the Scheme Administrator for successful implementation of Deposit Refund Scheme in the applicable jurisdiction,
 - 4) The Urban Local Bodies, Gram Panchayats, Himachal Pradesh Forest Department or any similar administrative body shall ensure mass awareness creation of Deposit Refund Scheme through IEC activities;
 - 5) The appointment of the aforementioned nodal officer shall be the responsibility of the state pollution control board or pollution control committee under The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981;
 - 6) Mandate retailers' participation through a notification in the respective geographical jurisdiction.

**Responsibilities of
Manufacturer**

11. 1) The collection of refundable deposit shall be secured through digitally printed Unique Serialized Identifier (USI) or any other technology as identified by the Scheme Administrator from time to time, valid for a defined period on the DRS product label printed or embossed
- 2) Manufacturers are mandated to secure a refundable deposit on the DRS product introduced in the State and shall be mandated to collect back the DRS product introduced in the Himachal Pradesh State through a Scheme Operator appointed by Scheme Administrator;
- 3) Manufacturers shall be securing the refundable deposit as defined by scheme administrator prescribed here within this Scheme and deposit the same in the escrow account;
- 4) The Manufacturers shall transfer in escrow account, an amount equivalent to consolidated deposits of the DRS products at the time of dispatch of DRS product from manufacturing facility, where DRS products are manufactured. The said consolidated deposit shall be further passed on within the downstream supply chain until finally collected from the customer or end user.
- 5) Manufacturers shall register themselves with the Scheme Administrator for participation in the Deposit Refund Scheme under this Scheme as per the modalities prescribed by



			Scheme Administrator;
		6)	Manufacturers are obligated to share the relevant information as may be required and as notified by the Scheme Administrator for the purpose of Deposit Refund Scheme;
		7)	Manufacturers shall be obliged to pay Reverse Collection Fee as prescribed by scheme administrator.
Responsibilities of Distributors	12.	1)	Distributors shall purchase the DRS product from Manufacturers along with the deposit secured over the fixed product price
		2)	Distributors shall only sell the DRS product to the supply chain below by collecting the additional deposit over the fixed product price.
Responsibilities of Retailer	13.	1)	Retailer shall purchase the DRS product from the distributor along with a deposit secured over the fixed product price;
		2)	Retailer shall only sell the DRS product to the consumer by collecting a deposit ;
		3)	Retailer shall inform the customer about the mandate to return the packaging and to get the refund of the deposit , by means of clearly recognizable and legible notices in the business premises;
Responsibilities of Collection Points	14.	1)	Collection points shall be established at the Urban Local Bodies and at Gram Panchayat, Forest Department level for collection of DRS product Points and refund of the deposit;
		2)	All designated collection points shall accept at their place of business, from a redeemer any DRS product notified under this Scheme;
		3)	The refund of the deposit must be in a legal tender; direct credit to the account or in cash;
		4)	The processing of refund is subject to clear visibility of the Unique Serialized Identifier on the DRS product returned at the collection point;
		5)	A redeemer can claim the deposit from the collection point which may be refunded from the escrow account directly to the account or in cash.
Responsibilities of Consumer and Redeemer	15.	1)	Shall only purchase DRS products with USI affixed on the product category pertinent to the Scheme;
		2)	Shall be mandated to return the used DRS product with clearly legible and readable USI and without any foreign material
Disposal Methodology of Collection Product	16.	1)	The collected DRS product under the Scheme shall be provided to the recyclers registered with Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board in the state to enhance the recycling ecosystem in the State;



Provided that the Scheme Operator shall be authorized to channelize and dispose the collected DRS product with the recyclers authorized under any of the State Pollution Control Board of India in case adequate recyclers are not available in the State

- 2) The disposal process shall follow the guidelines set by the State Pollution Control Board or the approved methodologies of the Central Pollution Control Board

PART IV-MISCELLANEOUS

- Imposition of Penalty** 17. 1) Penalty shall be based as per the Polluter Pays Principle with respect to non-fulfilment of obligations defined under this Scheme;
- 2) Scheme Administrator shall levy the Penalty on Manufacturers, Distributors and Retailers in case of non-fulfilment of obligations set out in the Scheme, and the same shall be notified;
- 3) Payment of Penalty shall not absolve the manufacturers, distributors and retailers of the obligations set out in the Scheme;
- 4) The Penalty collected shall be utilized in the implementation of the Deposit Refund Scheme.
- Penalty for unlawful possession of Property** 18. 1. Whoever is found, or is proved to have been, in possession of any Property reasonably suspected of having been stolen or unlawfully obtained shall, unless he proves that the Property came into his possession lawfully, be punishable as per law.-
- Application of Un-redeemed Deposit** 19. 1) The Unredeemed Deposit shall be applied by the Scheme Administrator to meet the expenditure incurred in connection with measures and facilities which, in the opinion of the Scheme Administrator are necessary or expedient to promote the Deposit Refund Scheme and in particulars:-
- a) To provide required funds for the implementation and operation of the Deposit Refund Scheme;
- b) To sanction any money in aid of any scheme for the welfare of the Deposit Refund Scheme;
- c) To meet the allowances if any, of the members of the High Powered Committee, and Scheme Administrative Committee and Scheme Operator under Point No 4, 6 & 7 respectively and the salaries and allowances, if any of persons appointed under this Scheme;
- d) Any other expenditure which the State Government may direct to be defrayed from the Unredeemed Deposit;

- 2) The Scheme Administrator shall have the power to decide whether any particular expenditure is or is not debitable to the Unredeemed Deposit and its decision shall be final.
- Protection of Action taken in Good Faith** 20. 1) No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against the State Government or the existing or new Government, Company or any Officers or any other employee of the Deposit Refund Scheme for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under the Scheme;
- Power to Remove Difficulties** 21. 1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of the Scheme, the State Government may, by order remove the difficulty;
- Members, Officers and Employees of the Deposit Refund Scheme to be Public Servant** 22. 1) All the Members and all Officers and Employees of the Deposit Refund Scheme when acting or purporting to act in pursuance of the provisions of the Scheme shall be deemed to be Public Servant within the meaning of Section 21 of the Indian Penal Code 1860.
- Execution of Pilot Projects** 23. 1) One location shall be identified within the State to launch a small pilot program for the Deposit Refund Scheme (DRS). This pilot project may serve as a model for evaluating the feasibility, effectiveness, and potential challenges of implementing the DRS across the State.

By Order,

Prabodh Saxena
Chief Secretary to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Endst. No. STE-F(4)-2/2021 Dated: Shimla-2, 2025.

Copy forwarded to the followings for information and necessary action to:

1. The Secretary to the Governor, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-2.
2. The Secretary to the Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-2.
3. The Private Secretary to the Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh.
4. All the Administrative Secretaries to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
5. All the Divisional Commissioners of Himachal Pradesh.
6. The Director, Deptt. of Environment, Science Technology & Climate Change, U.S. Club Shimla-1.
7. All Heads of Department of Himachal Pradesh.
8. All the Deputy Commissioners of Himachal Pradesh.
9. The Member Secretary, H.P. State Pollution Control Board, Phase-III, New Shimla-9.
10. All the Municipal Corporations/Municipal Council in Himachal Pradesh.
11. Guard file.

(Sat Pal Dhiman) 16-06-2025

Addl. Secretary (Env., Sci., Tech. & CC) to
the Government of Himachal Pradesh
Phone No. 0177-2621874