

CHANGES TO THE BOTTLE BILL

Frequently Asked Questions

Governor Kim Reynolds signed [SF2378](#) on June 17, 2022. The legislation amends certain provisions in Iowa Code 455C (the Bottle Bill). As of **January 1, 2023** the following changes will be effective:

FOR REDEMPTION CENTERS:

- To become an approved center, go to the DNR website at <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/solidwaste/> to access the approval form. You will need to provide the location and contact information and certify that the redemption center will accept all redeemable containers. Once reviewed, an electronic approval will be sent and the facility will be added to the list of approved redemption centers on the DNR's website.
- An application must be submitted January 31 of each year in order for an updated list to be maintained. There is no cost to file the application.
- Only approved redemption centers can be referenced by stores as a basis for opting out of the redemption program. Distributors are only required to pick up and accept containers from approved redemption centers under the statute.

I OWN A REDEMPTION CENTER AND HEARD THE HANDLING FEE INCREASED TO 3 CENTS. IS THAT TRUE?

- Beginning January 1, 2023, redemption centers and participating dealers will receive a 3-cent handling fee. For Dealer Agents, the handling fee will remain at 1 cent per container.
- This fee does not affect the 5-cent deposit/reimbursement.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN APPROVED AND UNAPPROVED REDEMPTION CENTER?

- Approved redemption centers will appear on the electronic list required by the law. Additionally, being approved requires distributors to pick up containers and reimburse the deposit refunds and pay the handling fees within timeframes specified in the law. Unapproved redemption centers will not appear on the electronic list and would rely on private agreements or contracts with distributors to ensure pick up and payment.
- Previous to the changes, to be an approved redemption center required an agreement with a dealer. Agreements with dealers are no longer required in order to be an approved redemption center.
- A handling or sorting fee cannot be deducted from the deposit refund amount due to the customer. Redemption centers must return 5 cents per container to the customer.
- Payment to the customer must be made within 10 days.
- Containers can only be rejected if they still contain liquid, other foreign materials or are crushed to where they can't stand on their own or the deposit information is not visible.
- Mini liquor bottles are exempt from labeling but still covered by the law. A label won't be visible, but they are eligible for redemption as a deposit was paid on them.

HOW IS THE BOTTLE BILL ENFORCED?

- Beginning January 1, 2023, the DNR will have enforcement authority via the issuance of administrative orders, administrative penalties and referral to the Attorney General for civil enforcement. Non-compliance with certain provisions also remain a criminal misdemeanor.

E-mail bottlebill@dnr.iowa.gov with any questions.

