

CDS Supplier Registration – Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ: Proposed CDS Supplier Registration Framework

The following questions and answers relate to recently approved amendments to the [Environment Protection \(Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags\) Act](#) (the Act).

The amendments establish a framework for CDS supplier registration and remove the need for containers supplied into the NT as part of the CDS to be approved.

The changes are set to commence by October 2021.

For convenience, questions have been separated into areas of interest to *Suppliers* including CDS supply approval holders, beverage suppliers (manufacturers, distributors and retailers), and beverage industry associations; and all *CDS participants* including CDS coordinators, CDS depot operators, suppliers and the general public.

Beverage supplier questions	Answers
When do the changes come into effect?	The changes will commence by October 2021. The commencement will be on a fixed date to be confirmed by Gazette notice.
What do these changes mean for suppliers of regulated beverage containers?	When the changes come into effect: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suppliers (manufacturers, distributors and retailers) will need to hold a CDS supplier registration certificate to supply regulated containers for sale in the NT• If you hold a CDS supply approval when the changes come into effect, you will be issued a new CDS supplier registration certificate¹ with conditions of registration. Registration may be granted for up to 10 years.

¹ Based on the information from your profile in the CDS online registry, and subject to you providing additional information, should this be required to facilitate the issue of the certificate.

Beverage supplier questions	Answers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suppliers do not need to apply for, or hold a supply approval for the beverage containers they supply in the NT • A registered CDS supplier must at all times maintain a supplier arrangement with an approved CDS coordinator for the containers that they supply in the NT (see also FAQ on conditions of CDS registration). • A supplier must form a supplier arrangement with an approved CDS coordinator before applying for CDS supplier registration certificate.
<p>What is a supplier arrangement?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A supplier arrangement is a waste management arrangement between a beverage supplier and an approved CDS coordinator. For more information see https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/your-business/container-deposit-scheme-industry-information
<p>What approval do I need now?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Until the changes come into effect you must ensure there is valid a supply approval for any regulated containers that you supply in the NT².
<p>I have a CDS supply approval. Do I have to apply for registration to replace the approval?</p> <p>I have a CDS supply approval that expires soon. What should I do?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No, you don't need to apply for a CDS supplier registration certificate if you hold a valid supply approval when the changes come into effect. • The NTEPA will issue a CDS supplier registration certificate³. • Registration may be granted for up to 10 years. • If your supply approval is due to expire before the changes come into effect, you must renew the supply approval to continue supplying regulated containers in the NT under existing provisions^{Error! Bookmark not defined.}. • If you do not hold a valid supply approval when the changes come into effect, you will need to apply for and be granted a CDS supplier registration to supply regulated containers in the NT.

² It is an offence under existing provisions of the Act to supply or sell regulated beverage containers in the NT unless the containers are approved. For more information existing requirements on supplying beverage containers in the NT, see <https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/your-business/container-deposit-scheme-industry-information>

³ Subject to you providing additional information if requested, should this be required to facilitate the issue of the certificate

Beverage supplier questions	Answers
What if I apply for a CDS supply approval, and the application is still being considered when the changes come into effect?	Under the proposed transitional arrangements, your application will be considered as an application for a supply approval. If the application satisfies the requirements for supply approval, you may be granted a CDS supplier registration.
What if I have a CDS supply approval but I no longer supply containers in the NT?	If you have ceased supplying regulated beverage containers in the NT, update your container records in the CDS supply approval registry to reflect this by changing the status of your container records to “retired” ⁴
What will happen with the online CDS supply approval registry?	<p>The CDS supply approval registry will no longer be available for external use once the changes come into effect.</p> <p>Information from the registry will be used to create a register of CDS suppliers and to inform the issue of CDS supplier registration certificate to each supplier that holds a valid supply approval when the changes come into effect.</p> <p>If you have a supplier profile in the CDS online registry⁴:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the company details are correct, and the status of your supply approval/s. • You can download your container records and documents from your profile. Once the changes come into effect you may obtain copies of this information on request. • If you have ceased supplying regulated beverage containers in the NT and no longer require authorisation to supply, change the status of your container records to “retired” to reflect this.
What will it mean for new suppliers / applicants?	<p>Once the changes are in effect, new suppliers will need to apply for a CDS supplier registration certificate. As part of the application process, you will need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form a supplier arrangement with an approved CDS coordinator for the containers to be supplied

⁴ For information on CDS supply approval registry and user guide see <https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/your-business/container-deposit-scheme-industry-information>.

Beverage supplier questions	Answers
<p>How do I become a registered CDS supplier?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a declaration to certify that the containers you intend to supply, and the supplier arrangement meet the requirements of the Act for supplying beverage containers in the NT <p>You will need to ensure that your supplier arrangement provides for the containers you will be supplying to the NT, however you will not need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek approval for, or register individual container types (unique combination of product name, container material type, size and beverage type⁵) or • Submit the supplier arrangement for approval.
<p>What requirements will apply to regulated containers supplied in the Territory?</p> <p>What containers are suitable for the CDS?</p> <p>What does suitability for recycling or reuse mean?</p>	<p>When the changes come into effect, you must be a CDS supplier to supply regulated containers in the Territory^{Error! Bookmark not defined.}. Regulated containers must satisfy the following requirements for supply in the Territory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the container materials (including the labels) are suitable for recycling or reuse • the container must bears the approved refund marking • the way the refund marking is applied is not likely to render the container suitable for recycling, for example it is not likely to be detached from the container when the contents are consumed (such as if applied to the lid) • the supplier must have a supplier arrangement with an approved CDS coordinator for the container <p>Empty CDS eligible containers are returned through the CDS to an approved CDS coordinator to be recycled or reused. CDS coordinators are best placed to assist with questions about whether a particular container (including the label) or its materials are recyclable or reusable.</p>
<p>What are the conditions of CDS supplier registration?</p>	<p>A CDS supplier registration certificate will be subject to the following conditions</p> <p>The CDS supplier must:</p>

⁵ For example, Joe's lime soda in 250mL PET bottle, Joe's lime soda in 350mL PET bottle, Joe's orange soda in 350mL bottle, Joe's lime soda in 250mL aluminium can etc.

Beverage supplier questions	Answers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not supply regulated containers in the Territory unless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the material types of the containers (including the labels) are suitable for recycling or reuse; and ○ the containers bear the approved refund marking, and this is applied in a way that does not render the containers unsuitable for reuse or recycling ○ the supplier has a supplier arrangement in place for the containers • at all times maintain a supplier arrangement/s with a CDS coordinator, and the arrangement must meet requirements specified in section 11 of the Act • provide information on containers to the CDS coordinator whom the supplier holds a supplier arrangement, including details of the regulated containers that the supplier supplies in the Territory, and quarterly regulated container sales information. • must on request, given the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) details of the regulated containers they supply in the Territory, and/or a copy of their current supplier arrangement/s. • must notify the NT within 5 days, if they terminate or enter a new arrangement, or cease to supply regulated containers in the Territory.
<p>Will I need to apply for an approval to supply my containers in the Territory?</p>	<p>No. You need to be a registered CDS supplier.</p> <p>If you have a current supply approval to supply regulated containers in the NT when the changes come into effect the NTEPA will issue a CDS supplier registration certificate³ ,</p> <p>You must however ensure you have a current supplier arrangement with a CDS coordinator for the containers you supply.</p>

Questions for CDS participants	Answers
What is the purpose of these changes?	The changes streamline the approvals processes for CDS in the NT by removing the requirement for containers sold into the NT as part of the CDS to be approved. The changes require any person supplying containers in the CDS to have a current certificate of registration.
How do I get a certificate of registration?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you hold a CDS supply approval when the changes come into effect, you will be issued a new CDS supplier registration certificate⁶ with conditions of registration. Registration may be granted for up to 10 years. • If you do not have a current supply approval, you will need to apply for a certificate of registration. An application can be sent to you on request. Simply email containerdeposit@nt.gov.au • Suppliers do not need to apply for, or hold a supply approval for the beverage containers they supply in the NT
How will I know which suppliers are registered?	The NT EPA will maintain a register of CDS supplier details.
What is a permitted container?	<p>Under the changes, containers supplied by a CDS supplier are referred as permitted containers.</p> <p>A permitted container is a regulated container that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) is supplied in the Territory by a CDS supplier; and (b) bears the approved refund marking.
How will the public know which containers they can exchange for a 10 cent refund?	<p>Regulated containers sold in the Territory must bear one of the approved 10 cent refund markings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "10c refund at collection depots/points in participating State/Territory of purchase" • "10c refund at SA/NT collection depots in State/Territory of purchase"

⁶ Based on the information from your profile in the CDS online registry, and subject to you providing additional information, should this be required to facilitate the issue of the certificate.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "10c refund at collection depots when sold in NT"
<p>How will collection depot operators know if a container is a permitted container?</p> <p>How will a coordinator know if the containers accepted from a collection depot are permitted containers?</p>	<p>A permitted container must have the approved refund marking on the label on the container.</p> <p>Details of permitted containers will be made available to collection depot operator by the CDS coordinator with whom depot operator shares an operator arrangement.</p> <p>Conditions of CDS supplier registration will require each supplier to provide a container identification document that details the regulated containers they supply, to the CDS coordinator with whom the supplier holds a supplier arrangement.</p> <p>Conditions of CDS coordinator approval will require the coordinator to share the container identification document with each other CDS coordinator, and with each collection depot operator with whom the CDS coordinator shares an operator arrangement.</p> <p>Suppliers will be required to provide details of containers they supply in the Territory to the NT EPA annually and on request.</p>
<p>What is an operator arrangement?</p>	<p>An operator arrangement is a waste management arrangement between a beverage supplier and an approved CDS coordinator. For more information see https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/your-business/container-deposit-scheme-industry-information</p>
<p>Will the risk/number of free-riders in the scheme increase if the NT EPA is not assessing and approving regulated containers before they are supplied in the Territory?</p>	<p>The changes will free Government and NT EPA resources from administering container approvals and enable resources to be diverted to strategic management of the scheme and more proactive compliance activities, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring retailers are not selling regulated containers that are not permitted containers • Ensuring registered suppliers maintain a supplier arrangement at all times as required by the conditions of CDS supplier registration.
<p>What other provisions of the Act will change?</p>	<p>Some of the terms used to describe regulated containers that are currently subject to a supply approval, referred as <i>approved containers</i>, and relate terms will change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Permitted container</i> is a regulated container that is supplied in the Territory by a CDS supplier; and bears the approved refund marking

<p>Will the conditions of my CDS approval change?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Accepted container</i> is a container that has been accepted from the operator of an approved depot; or a container that has been accepted by an operator in exchange for a refund • Provisions to prevent disposal of accepted containers, e.g. by landfill without authorisation to do so. • <i>Container identification document</i> lists the container barcodes or container details of permitted containers supplied by a CDS supplier in the Territory. As with the current conditions of CDS supply approvals and CDS coordinator approvals relating to <i>supplier barcode documents</i> barcode documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As a condition of CDS supplier registration, the CDS supplier must provide a <i>container identification document</i> to the CDS coordinator with whom the supplier shares a supplier arrangement. ○ As a condition of CDS coordinator approval, the CDS coordinator must provide a <i>container identification document</i> to each CDS coordinator and each collection approval holder with whom the coordinator shares an arrangement. • The conditions of CDS collection approvals will not change under the amendments.
<p>The supply approval process is inconsistent with schemes in other states and territories</p>	<p>Establishing consistency between schemes where possible helps with providing a model that is familiar to the consumer and industry, and minimises regulatory burden on the beverage industry.</p> <p>These changes simplify the authorisation process for beverage container supply in the Territory, and will significantly reduce administrative and regulatory burden on industry. It does not change the intent of scheme which is consistent nationally.</p> <p>The introduction of supplier registration (vs container approvals) will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace the need for suppliers to apply for approval of individual containers with supplier registration • Reduce processing times for supply applications and wait times for suppliers with the move to registration • Extend the timeframe for registration to 10 years (previously up to 5 years for a supply approval)
<p>Where can I find more information about the changes?</p>	<p>The changes resulted from (a) the independent review of the CDS by Ernst & Young in 2018 and (b) response to the Territory Economic Reconstruction Commission (TERC) report. For more information about the 2018 CDS review and the NTG response to the CDS review recommendations go to https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/publications-and-advice/container-</p>

[deposit-scheme-reports](#) and <https://depws.nt.gov.au/environment-information/container-deposit-scheme/container-deposit-scheme-review>.

For more information on the TERC report go to <https://ntrebound.nt.gov.au/reports/first-report>.

For detail on the amendments see: The [Statute Law Amendment \(Territory Economic Reconstruction\) Bill 2021](#)