

# Reusable packaging is a legal requirement!

THIS WILL CHANGE WITH THE REUSABLE PACKAGING RULE FROM 2023.



## Deposit and discount guidelines

- A deposit may be charged on reusable packaging. When using a reusable system, the amount of the deposit is specified by the supplier.
- Discounts or other rebates may not be given for food and beverages in disposable packaging as an advantage over reusable packaging.

## Inform your customers!

- Establishments must clearly display information about their reusable offer in the sales area.
- The size and form of the notice should correspond to the display of the sales offer.
- The notice must contain the following text: "Food and beverages available in reusable containers." If only food/only beverages are offered, this may be shortened accordingly.
- The following applies when delivering food and beverages: The reusable packaging option must be actively highlighted during the ordering process.

## Exemptions from the reusable packaging rule

The reusable packaging rule applies to all establishments with a sales area of more than 80 m<sup>2</sup> (including freely accessible seating and lounge areas; branches are added) or having more than five employees<sup>1</sup>. For small establishments having a smaller sales area and up to five employees<sup>1</sup>, exemptions apply if they cannot or do not want to offer reusable containers or containers from a reusable system.

<sup>1</sup> When determining the number of employees, part-time employees with normal weekly working time of less than 20 hours will be considered as 0.5 and those not exceeding 30 hours will be considered as 0.75.

## Taking back guideline and hygiene rules

- Establishments must take back the reusable containers that have been handed out. When using a reusable system, all corresponding containers of the reusable supplier must be taken back.
- Hygiene rules and food safety requirements must be followed for taking back, cleaning and handing out reusable containers.

## Exemptions for small establishments

- Food and beverages must be filled into clean reusable containers brought by customers.
- As part of the offer, establishments must highlight that they put food and beverages in containers brought by the customers. The notice should contain the following information: "Food and beverages available in reusable containers." or : "Customers can bring their own reusable containers."
- When filling the containers brought by customers, the applicable hygiene rules and food safety requirements must be followed.

The Packaging Act (§ 33, § 34 VerpackG) makes reusable packaging mandatory from 1 January 2023:

This applies when offering disposable packaging that is made of plastic or has plastic components and is intended for single use only. Establishments that offer takeaway food must also offer reusable packaging options in addition to the disposable packaging used.

When offering beverages to take away, a reusable alternative to disposable cups must be available in any case. The material of the disposable cups is irrelevant.

## Implementation of the reusable packaging rule

### Reusable packaging for takeaway

- **Option 1:** Offer of own reusable containers, e. g. made of glass, ceramic or plastic. When choosing containers, make sure that they are suitable for food.
- **Option 2:** Collaborate with a company that offers containers in a reusable system (e.g. reusable pool system).



**Caution! The fine can be up to 10,000 euros for non-compliance with the legally binding requirements defined under § 33 and § 34 of the Packaging Act.**