

# **Consultation Paper on Potential Legislative Measures to Implement Zero Waste**

## **A submission by the Campaign for Real Ale on certain of the Proposals**

**October 2008-10-01**

### **Introduction**

1. CAMRA, The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd wishes to comment on certain of the proposals made in the Scottish Government consultation paper on possible legislative measures to implement zero waste.
2. In particular we would wish to comment on the proposals made in section 5 on a possible deposit and return scheme for bottles and cans.

### **Should legislation be made in this area?**

3. CAMRA believes that there is merit in the introduction of a deposit and return scheme for cans and bottles.
4. We believe that a deposit and return scheme could have benefits for the pub trade. We believe that the sale of draught beer, and in particular locally produced real ale is a more environmentally friendly product. It is delivered from the brewery to the pub in a large returnable container (i.e a cask) which when it is empty is returned to the brewery for refilling.
5. We believe that not only would a deposit and return scheme have the benefits of reducing waste from empty drinks containers and the subsequent landfill problems but would also aid the embattled on trade in Scotland in the face of below cost alcohol sales from supermarkets.
6. We believe that the scheme should cover all drinks containers .
7. We realise that there may be problems for smaller retailers to implement such a system and we therefore welcome the proposal to set up an implementation group before any regulations are made

### **What form should the legislation take**

8. There should be a small but significant deposit charged on all drinks containers.
9. Reverse vending machines should be used such as in other countries like Denmark that have already implemented a deposit and return scheme. Such

systems should be easily accessible and be capable of accepting all returns covered by the deposit scheme.

### **Practicalities of such schemes in Scotland**

10. There are potentially certain practical problems of introducing such a scheme in Scotland alone. As a UK wide organisation CAMRA would like to see such a scheme extended over the whole of the UK.
11. We think that there could be problems of cross borders shopping and there is also the question of how on-line shopping is handled.
12. We realise that there may be problems for smaller retailers to implement such a system and we therefore welcome the proposal to set up an implementation group before any regulations are made
13. We would hope that the introduction of a deposit and return scheme would not hinder the cross border trade of, in particular, beers from smaller brewers from the rest of the UK and the wider EU. Or indeed the sales of Scotland's own growing microbrewing sector.

### **Summary**

14. In summary CAMRA is in favour of a deposit and return system for drinks containers, and in particular beer and cider packaged products. However we believe that care must be taken in implementing such a system so that smaller retailers and producers are not unfairly penalised. We also feel that the Scottish Government should work with the counterparts in Westminster, Cardiff and Belfast to ensure that the UK moves to more environmentally sound system of distribution of drinks. to ensure a zero waste.

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### **About CAMRA**

CAMRA, The Campaign for Real Ale is a not-for-profit independent voluntary consumer body which exists to promote and defend access to full-flavoured and distinctive beer and the best features of the British pub.

CAMRA was founded in 1971 and membership is currently 95,500.

CAMRA's mission is to act as the champion of the consumer in relation to the UK and European drinks industry. Its aims are as follows:

**Maintain consumer rights**

**Promote quality, choice and value for money**

**Support the public house as a focus of community life**

**And campaign for greater appreciation of traditional beers, ciders and perries as part of national heritage and culture**

The Campaign is funded by member subscriptions, sales of publications and products and proceeds from beer festivals. Other than revenue from advertising in our member's newspaper, it is not funded in any way by the industry. Only individuals can join CAMRA.