

# AVA NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2023

## Defra defines 'plastic' & 'polystyrene'

When Defra first launched its consultation on "Banning the supply of commonly littered single-use plastic items", the AVA was concerned that the definition of polystyrene was so loose, that rigid extruded polystyrene vending cups would get caught in the net.

In response, we made a forceful point in our submission to Defra and continued to lobby. To put it in simple terms, following the result of the consultation update provided by DEFRA, plastic vending cups will **NOT** be banned. Whilst all single use items such as plastic plates, cutlery and trays will be included in the ban from October this year, rigid extruded polystyrene plastic cups will not.

In addition, plastic plates, trays and bowls will be allowed in vending where they are used to provide an on-site meal. The consultation update states: "The ban on the supply of single-use plastic plates, trays, and bowls will not apply to plates, trays, and bowls that are used as packaging, in shelf-ready pre-packaged food items. For clarity, plastic plates, bowls, and trays that are used as packaging can be used in eat-in and takeaway settings."

Whilst we are pleased that this exclusion will mean that the vending industry is not directly impacted by this change, we acknowledge that this is a much-needed change that will hopefully have a positive impact on plastic pollution and littering.

Of course, the ban will have a significant impact on the hospitality industry, and businesses will have to make the transition towards alternative solutions. However, as sustainability is the priority in our net-zero attempts, the single use plastic ban announcement is a welcome one.

Full details of the Defra summary can be found [HERE](#)

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# Defra - again

Defra has also recently released “Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland - Government response”, with a proposal to have the legislation in place for “the end of 2023”.

The AVA supports the aims of the Deposit Return Scheme. The industry is keen to promote the recovery, reuse and recycling of all packaging materials. We support the wide range of recycling opportunities and methods of doing so being approached both by industry, associations and government and are committed to increasing awareness of material usage as well as reuse and reduction opportunities wherever possible and appropriate. The Association actively promotes recovery and recycling within our industry.

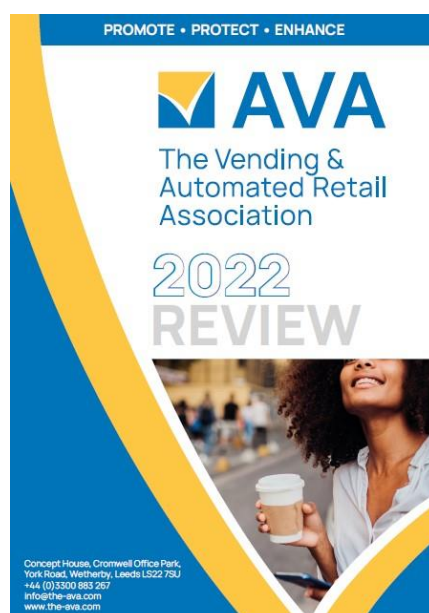
But we have some concerns to ensure that the scheme functions in the same way across the four nations, despite the variation in materials included. The Defra paper refers to the “Interoperability of DRS across the nations”. This is a critical part of any implementation.

The same can be said of labelling, many of our members, both Operators and Suppliers work across the nation borders. There must be common labelling to manage costs and logistics, especially for smaller companies.

Again, we have concerns about unintended consequences which could impact vending, so will be actively lobbying the Ministry, MPs and engaging with civil servants at Defra on behalf of our members. Watch out for how you can involved and help.

Full details of the Defra response can be found [HERE](#)

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



**The AVA review of 2022 was published earlier this month. Make sure you catch up with the news!**

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT THE AVA

It is vital that we understand what our members need, as well as how they feel about the services and support that the AVA currently offers.

This helps us to ensure we remain focused on what matters to you.

So please, take about 5 minutes out of your day to complete our

*Annual Member Survey.*

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