



Technical committee technical newsletter

No 16 – August 2022

Welcome to technical committee newsletter number 16, written by the AVA technical committee specifically for technical managers in the industry. We hope you will find it interesting. We would appreciate any comments or suggestions for items to be covered in future newsletters.

AVA Technical Day

This is the one day in the vending calendar devoted to technical matters where you can hear from experts on a wide range of subjects. The day is packed with information that will help you understand issues you have to deal with now as well as providing guidance on what is coming your way in the next few years. The programme for the day is being circulated with this newsletter.

AVA Engineers training programme

The AVA engineers training scheme was intended promote the development of technical staff in the industry and to provide a certificate of competence so that clients could be reassured that vending engineers know what they are doing. This is the only way that vending engineers can demonstrate their competence. The basic course, which is on line, has been a great success and over 150 vending engineers have successfully completed it. Two further courses are planned for this year and they are both nearly full. Contact the office for more details.

Calorie labelling

The Calorie Labelling (Out of Home Sector)(England) Regulations 2021 came into force on 6 April 2022. They apply to food which is suitable for immediate consumption but is not prepacked (because prepacked food already has to have calorie information on it) and this includes drinks. It therefore includes drinks from vending machines but it only applies to businesses that have more than 250 employees at the start of the financial year. It does not apply to single portions of fruit. The information that must be provided at the point of sale or on the menu is the energy content of a single portion of the food in kilocalories and a statement that “adults need around 2000 kcal a day”.

Energy labelling

The Regulation requiring manufacturers of chilled machines to place a label on their machines which identifies their energy rating came into force in the EU on March 1st. This Regulation applies to machines sold in the EU including Northern Ireland but not to machines sold in the rest of the UK. Defra is preparing a Regulation that will cover the rest of the UK but its implementation date is unknown. The label required in GB will be similar to, but different from, that in the EU. The EU

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has a database on which manufacturers have to list the energy consumption of their equipment and its rating; Great Britain will not create such a database and will merely allow manufacturers to hold the data themselves. The rating scale runs from A to G and no machine will be better than a C initially.

Refrigerant gases

The EU is intending to accelerate the rate at which it requires production of HFCs to be reduced. It is likely that the availability of R134a will be extremely low after 2024.

Deposit Return Schemes

The Scottish deposit return scheme plan is moving ahead and still looks likely to achieve its voluntary start date of November with a full introduction in August 2023. However, there are two issues with reverse vending machines. Not all machines available at present will comply with the Circularity Scotland specification (which is available from the AVA office) and delivery times are of the order of 6 months.

Myths and scams

Things are not always what they are made out to be. One question at the moment is “when is a plastic not a plastic?”. This all depends what you mean by plastic. As far as the EU is concerned, plastic is defined in the Single Use Plastics Directive 2019/904 which requires that it “can function as a main structural component of final products”. Some manufacturers have taken this to mean that where a coating is sprayed onto paper – for example like a paint - it is not acting as a structural component and therefore it is not a plastic. On this basis they are claiming that they have a paper cup that is plastic free. So far this approach has not been tested in the courts but these cups cannot be recycled in normal paper waste.