



# 2022

## **Circular Economy Malta**

*Annual Report*

Beverage Containers  
Recycling Scheme





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|                |                                                     |             |                                 |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>BCRS</b>    | Beverage Container Refund Scheme                    | <b>PET</b>  | Polyethylene Terephthalate      |
| <b>CEAP</b>    | Circular Economy Action Plan                        | <b>QTY</b>  | Quantity                        |
| <b>CEMalta</b> | Circular Economy Malta                              | <b>RVMs</b> | Reverse Vending Machines        |
| <b>EPR</b>     | Extended Producer Responsibility                    | <b>WMP</b>  | Waste Management Plan           |
| <b>EU</b>      | European Union                                      | <b>Wt</b>   | Weight                          |
| <b>IoT</b>     | Internet of Things                                  | <b>LESA</b> | Local Enforcement System Agency |
| <b>IT</b>      | Information Technology                              |             |                                 |
| <b>Kgs</b>     | Kilograms                                           |             |                                 |
| <b>MEEE</b>    | Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Enterprise |             |                                 |







5010 7452

Recycled plastic bottles recycled

100% Recycled  
100% Recycled  
100% Recycled  
100% Recycled  
100% Recycled  
100% Recycled  
100% Recycled  
100% Recycled  
100% Recycled  
100% Recycled

CAUTION: Do not touch



# 1 FOREWORD

## Ing. Jason Vella

Chief Executive Officer

As a nation, Malta strives to become economically sustainable. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development launched by the United Nations in 2015 is considered a top priority for the Maltese Government, and the Sustainable Development Goals lie at the heart of the policies, measures and initiatives encapsulated in the Waste Management Plan (WMP) 2021-2030 adopted by the Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Enterprise.

The WMP includes policy measures related to the investment in infrastructure aimed at substantially improving Malta's collection and recycling rates, as well as increasing Malta's efforts to shift from a linear to a circular economy pattern.

This includes the adoption of extended producer responsibility principles in local business models, whereby producers and importers assume responsibility for their products from placement on the market until the end of the product life cycle. Circular Economy Malta (CEMalta) is the

designated competent entity on behalf of the Government of Malta responsible for carrying out functions and duties that enhance Malta's transition towards a circular economy, thereby providing the right climate and implementing the appropriate measures that embrace circular economy principles.

CEMalta is committed to ensuring seamless collaboration amongst the Government, the industry and the public, thereby acting as a catalyst to ensure that the foundation to harness a culture that embraces the circular economy is established. In this respect, CEMalta was entrusted with the monitoring and enforcement of the Beverage Container Refund Scheme (Scheme) through Subsidiary Legislation S.L. 549.134, and therefore grant and regulate a license, to a private operator to implement the Scheme. Thereby, the operator assumed responsibility for the collection and recycling of single-use beverage

containers placed on the local market. The Scheme, Malta's first nationwide deposit return system, targeting single-use beverage containers made of plastic, aluminium and/or metal, and glass, aims at fostering and enhancing awareness about the importance of waste management as a means of improving our environment through reduction of waste, reduction of littering and improved social behavior.

The Scheme's objective is to cultivate a culture among public and private stakeholders in respect of the economic and environmental benefits of the circularity of resources and ultimately, divert waste from the Landfill.

The Regulations and the Licence Agreement establish the collection and recycling targets to be reached by the Licensed Operator, starting at 70% in 2022 and progressively increasing to 90% by 2026. The year 2022 was characterised by the successful launch of the Beverage Container Refund Scheme. By

the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022, as agreed with the operator, 85% of the RVMs that were originally planned were commissioned and available to the public.

CEMalta actively coordinated meetings and negotiations with various central and local government entities and participated in several meetings between the Scheme's operator and various economic operators to ascertain the widest availability and acceptance possible of the Scheme.

At an early stage, it was established that for the proper management and governance of the Scheme, the agency required, accurate information possible about imported products within the scope of the Scheme.

Close coordination with the Inland Revenue and Customs departments led to the planning of the first phase of implementation of a system that aims to reach this aim.





An educational media campaign was launched by Agency underlining circular economy principles was also deployed to coincide with the launch.

CEMalta's work will not stop with the launch of the beverage container refund scheme. The Agency looks forward to 2023 as a year that will bring about new milestones and challenges hailing from the regulatory aspect of the Scheme.

CEMalta commits to honour the regulations governing the Scheme to ensure that the Scheme is implemented effectively and efficiently. CEMalta strives to continue to build public confidence in the Agency's role as the national regulator of the Scheme as well as in the reaped environmental benefits of the Scheme.

CEMalta looks forward to the obtainment of the national collection and recycling targets by the Licensed Operator, targets that prove to be more ambitious than those set by the European Commission.

Moreover, undoubtedly the successful implementation of the Scheme augurs well for the introduction of similar schemes built on the principles of Extended Producer Responsibility to mitigate the flow to landfills of other waste streams.

Foresight is needed to establish adequate measures in preparing for this shift, and CEMalta shall take the leading role in preparing the groundwork entailed for the establishment of the legal framework of such circular economy schemes.





# 2 ADVISORY BOARD

As stipulated in Section 8 of the Licence Agreement, the Advisory Board consists of six (6) members; three (3) of which representing the Agency, and three (3) of which representing the Licensed Operator. The Advisory Board is chaired by one of the Agency's members. The Board convenes at least once a month to discuss technical matters relating to the Scheme.





# 3 BACKGROUND

## 3.1

### Circular Economy at an EU Level

In March 2020, the European Commission adopted the new circular economy action plan (CEAP), to help accelerate Europe's transition towards a circular economy by promoting sustainable economic growth, enhancing global competitiveness, and generating new jobs by prioritizing key product value chains to reduce waste and improve the EU's capacity of taking responsibility of the waste produced.

The new action plan, adopted in March 2020, sets out initiatives throughout the entire life cycle of products through a future-oriented agenda, with the aim to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Neutrality by 2050. It targets products design, promotes circular economy processes, encourages sustainable consumption, and ensures that waste is restrained by lengthening the product's life within the EU economy. The new action plan highlights the main goals of the European Green Deal, which is based on an innovative model that helps to build a closer relationship with customers by sharing a collaborative economy supported by the digital era.

Legislative measures have been implemented to ensure the swift implementation of all actions and to further support the change from a linear economy model to a circular economy model, reaching both collection and recycling targets through the introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Schemes. The Commission will also enhance the implementation of the recently adopted requirements for EPR schemes, provide incentives and encourage sharing of information and best practices in giving waste a value. All this shall serve the objective to significantly reduce total waste generation and halve the amount of residual (non-recycled) municipal waste by 2030.



## 3.2

### A Deposit Return System in Malta

At a national level, the Waste Regulations (Subsidiary Legislation 549.63) provide an overall framework for a variety of waste streams, some of which are further managed through separate regulations, one of which includes the Beverage Container Refund Scheme, governed by Subsidiary Legislation 549.134.

This nationwide Scheme is inspired by the principles of EPR and enhances awareness of the importance of waste management as a means of safeguarding the environment. The Scheme aims to increase the collection and recycling of beverage containers, thereby reaching national targets, reducing litter, and improving social behaviour by fostering a culture in congruence with EU Directives. The following table reflects the timeline of events vis-à-vis the Scheme from its public announcement to its official launch:

| Activities                                                                                                                                    | Date                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Budget Speech announced the beverage container refund scheme                                                                                  | 2018                        |
| Scheme proposal, including draft Regulations and Licence Agreement, put forward for public consultation                                       | May 2018                    |
| Consultation with representatives of the main bottling companies as well as other private and public stakeholders                             | 2019 - 2020                 |
| Parliament Passed the Regulations and the Licence Agreement, and Legal Notice 311 of 2020 entered into force (Subsidiary Legislation 549.134) | July 2020                   |
| The Licence Agreement between Circular Economy Malta on behalf of the Government and the private operator of the Scheme was signed            | September 2020              |
| Preparatory work for the commencement of the Scheme                                                                                           | October 2020 - October 2022 |
| Launch of the Scheme nationwide                                                                                                               | 14th November 2022          |

Fig. 01



### 3.3

## The Establishment of the BCRS Malta Ltd - The Licensed Operator

Following the entry into force of the Licence Agreement governing the relationship between the Government and the licensed operator of the Scheme, BCRS Malta Ltd was incorporated. The company represents the Malta Beverage Producers Association, the Malta Beverage Importers Association, and the Malta Beverage Retailers Association with the obligation, amongst others, to assume the collective extended producer responsibility on behalf of producers, importers, and retailers of single-use beverage containers.

BCRS Malta Ltd is a not-for-profit organization licensed to operate by Government, whose legal obligations emanate from S.L 549.134. Among other legal obligations, the Regulations stipulate the Collection and Recycling targets to be obtained by BCRS Malta Ltd (referred in *(Fig. 02)* below), which targets increase progressively to achieve a collection rate of 90% of single-use beverage containers placed on the market by 2026.

In exercising its functions as the licensed operator of the Beverage Container Refund Scheme, BCRS Malta Ltd invested in an infrastructure to effectively and efficiently operate the Scheme. These investments include the construction and setting up of the first privately funded Clearing Centre and sorting plant in Malta dedicated to beverage container waste, and the deployment of a network of Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs) around the Maltese islands which are powered by state-of-the-art engineering and IT technologies, connected through Internet of Things (IoT), and a roll-out of monitoring systems underpinning the operation of the Scheme.

### 3.4

## The Role of CEMalta

As the national regulator for the Beverage Container Refund Scheme on behalf of government, CEMalta is the entity entrusted with the monitoring and enforcement of the Scheme. It is the role of CEMalta as the regulator to ensure that both the national Operator driving the Scheme, BCRS Malta Ltd, and the economic operators participating in the Scheme, including Producers and Importers, Distributors, Retailers, and Catering Undertakings involved in the beverage industry, fulfil their respective legal obligations as set out in Subsidiary Legislation 549.134.

## Licensed Operator's Collection & Recycling Targets

| Reference Year                              | Collection Rate                                 | Recycling Rate |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 2022                                        | 70% of Single Use Containers in terms of weight | 65%            |
| 2023                                        | 70% of Single Use Containers in terms of weight | 65%            |
| 2024                                        | 80% of Single Use Containers in terms of weight | 75%            |
| 2025                                        | 85% of Single Use Containers in terms of weight | 80%            |
| 2026 and for every calendar year thereafter | 90% of Single Use Containers in terms of weight | 85%            |

Fig. 02





# 4 REGULATION 36 - REPORT BY THE AGENCY

## 4.1

### Scheme Participation

The Scheme Regulations require that:

*“Producers, distributors, retailers and catering undertakings making available, or intending to make available, on the market any beverage container shall register with the licensed operator and shall register any such beverage container...omnis...”* (Regulation 13 (1), S.L 549.134).

Thus, local producers, importers, distributors, retailers, and catering undertakings who place or make available on the market single-use beverage containers that fall within scope of the Beverage Container Refund Scheme in-line with the First and Second Schedule of the Regulations, are legally bound to register with BCRS Malta Ltd, and to participate in the Scheme. In congruence with the said Regulations, such economic operators shall abide by several legal obligations, which CEMalta monitors as the Scheme regulator. It is worth mentioning that the legal requirements set in the Scheme Regulations differ from one economic activity to the other, and

that one economic operator may have different functions which shall require more than one registration accordingly, and consequently with separate legal obligations. (Fig. 03) lists the number of Scheme participants per category for the year 2022.

It is worth noting that as a Scheme which is inspired by the principles of EPR, the implementation of the Beverage Container Refund Scheme unquestionably required a serious culture change in the modus operandi of local business vis-à-vis waste treatment.

The legal obligations pertaining to economic operators confirm that the responsibility of waste is being shifted towards the industry.

CEMalta together with BCRS Malta Ltd faced several challenges to involve the stakeholders in question, and to educate the industry about its new legal responsibilities.



Fig. 03

CEMalta has worked incessantly to prepare the industry for the great culture shift required to regularize their operations in-line with the Scheme Regulations, and to appreciate the environmental benefits of implementing a deposit return system.

The figures reported in the table below (Fig. 03) are the fruits of continual hard work and seamless collaboration between the parties involved. It is pertinent to note that Regulation 13 of S.L 549.134 additionally requires that economic operators, namely Producers and Importers, register the beverage containers, by ty-

pology, with the Scheme, including the shape, material, volume and type of beverage containers, in-line with the First and Second Schedule of the said Regulations.

This is required due to the functionality of the RVMs in their recognition and acceptance of containers in exchange for vouchers.

(Fig. 04) below showcases the number of beverage containers per typology registered with the Scheme, by material, by end of year 2022:

|       |      |
|-------|------|
| CAN   | 1487 |
| GLASS | 1739 |
| PET   | 2175 |

Fig. 04

\* From 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

### Registered Economic Operators 2022

| Economic Activity             | Registered  |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 01: Producers of beverages    | 12          |
| 02: Importers of beverages    | 157         |
| 03: Distributors of beverages | 72          |
| 04: Retailers                 | 1346        |
| 05: Catering establishment    | 1740        |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>3327</b> |

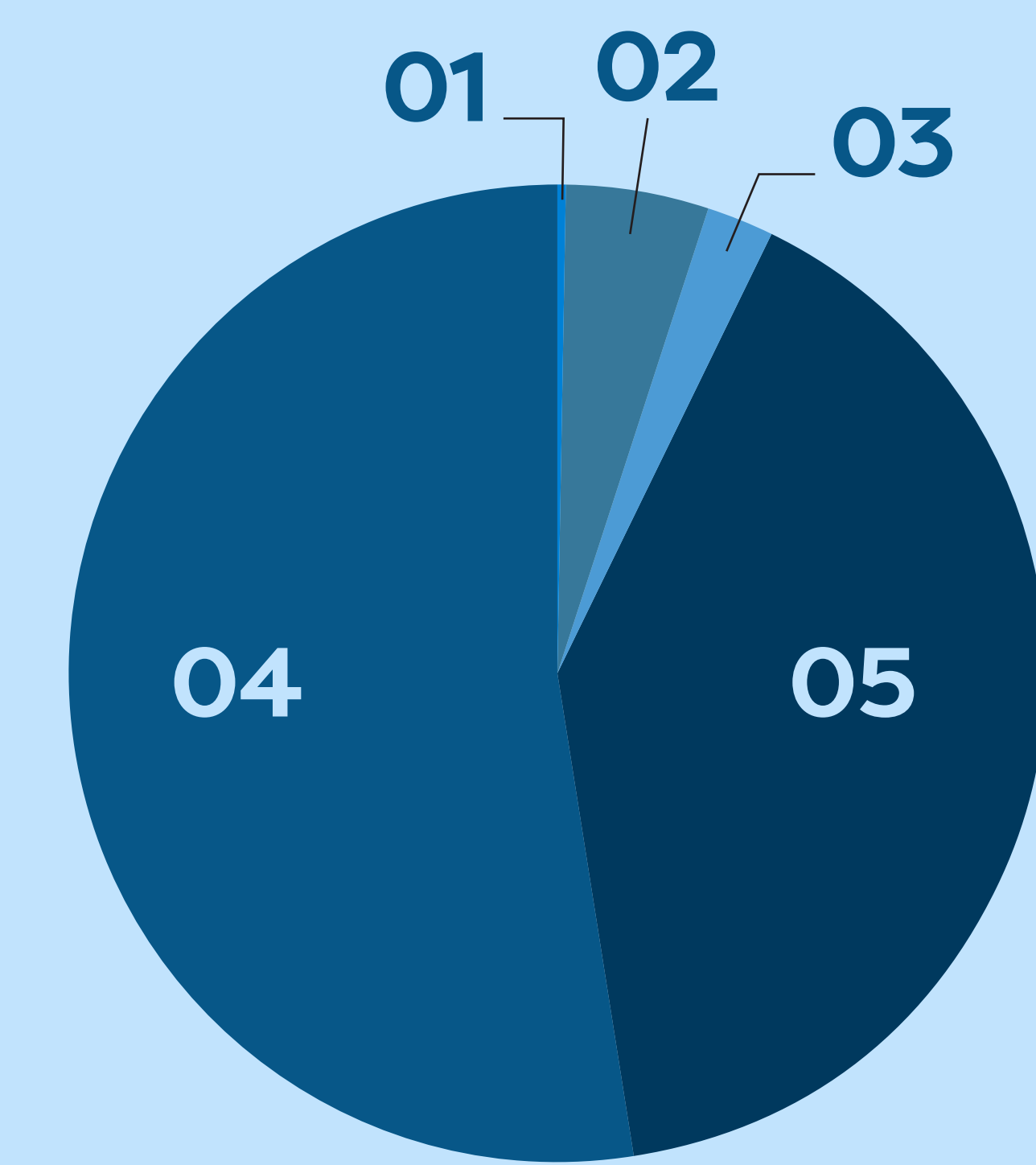


Fig. 04

\* From 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022



## 4.2

### Numbers of Containers Placed on the Market, Collected & Recycled

Regulation 14 of S.L 549.134 requires Producers and Importers to file reports with the licensed operator of the quantity and weight, by typology, of single-use containers placed on the market respectively.

BCRS Malta Ltd in turn compiles the said reports to extract the number of quantity and aggregate weight by typology of single-use containers placed on the market on an annual basis, for that relevant calendar year. (Fig. 05) below summarizes these relevant quantities.



| Material     | Placed on the market QTY 2022 | Placed on the market Tonnes 2022 |
|--------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| PET          | 17,684,240                    | 546.79                           |
| CAN          | 7,172,569                     | 105.38                           |
| GLASS        | 2,212,506                     | 558.46                           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>27,069,315</b>             | <b>1,211</b>                     |

\* From 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

The figures quoted in (Fig. 05) are then utilized to calculate the collection rate, against the respective collection targets stipulated in Fifth Schedule of the Regulations, which are as follows:

#### (i) Material Stream I: beverage containers made from metal

##### From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 -

Seventy per cent (70%) in terms of weight of single use containers registered in terms of the Scheme as having been placed on the market during the said period.

##### 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 -

Seventy per cent (70%) in terms of weight of single use containers registered in terms of the Scheme as having been placed on the market during the said period.

##### 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 -

Eighty per cent (80%) in terms of weight of single use containers registered in terms of the Scheme as having been placed on the market during the said period.

##### 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 -

Eighty-five per cent (85%) in terms of weight of the single use containers registered in terms of the Scheme as having been placed on the market during the said period.

##### 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026 and for every calendar year thereafter -

Ninety per cent (90%) in terms of weight of single use containers registered in terms of the Scheme as having been placed on the market during the said period.

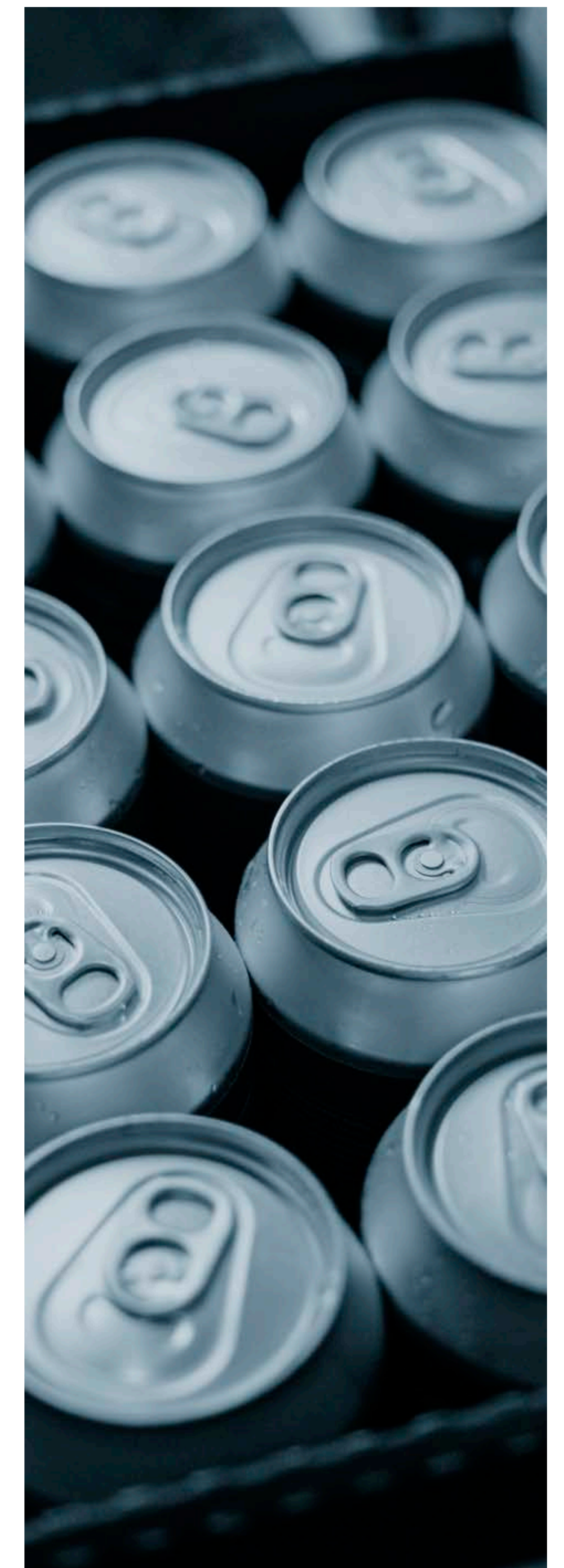


Fig. 05



**(ii) Material Stream II: beverage containers made from plastic that are single-use plastic products as defined in regulation 3 of the Single-Use Plastic Framework Regulations**

**From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 -**

Seventy per cent (70%) in terms of weight of single use containers registered in terms of the Scheme as having been placed on the market during the said period.

**1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 -**

Seventy per cent (70%) in terms of weight of single use containers registered in terms of the Scheme as having been placed on the market during the said period.

**1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 -**

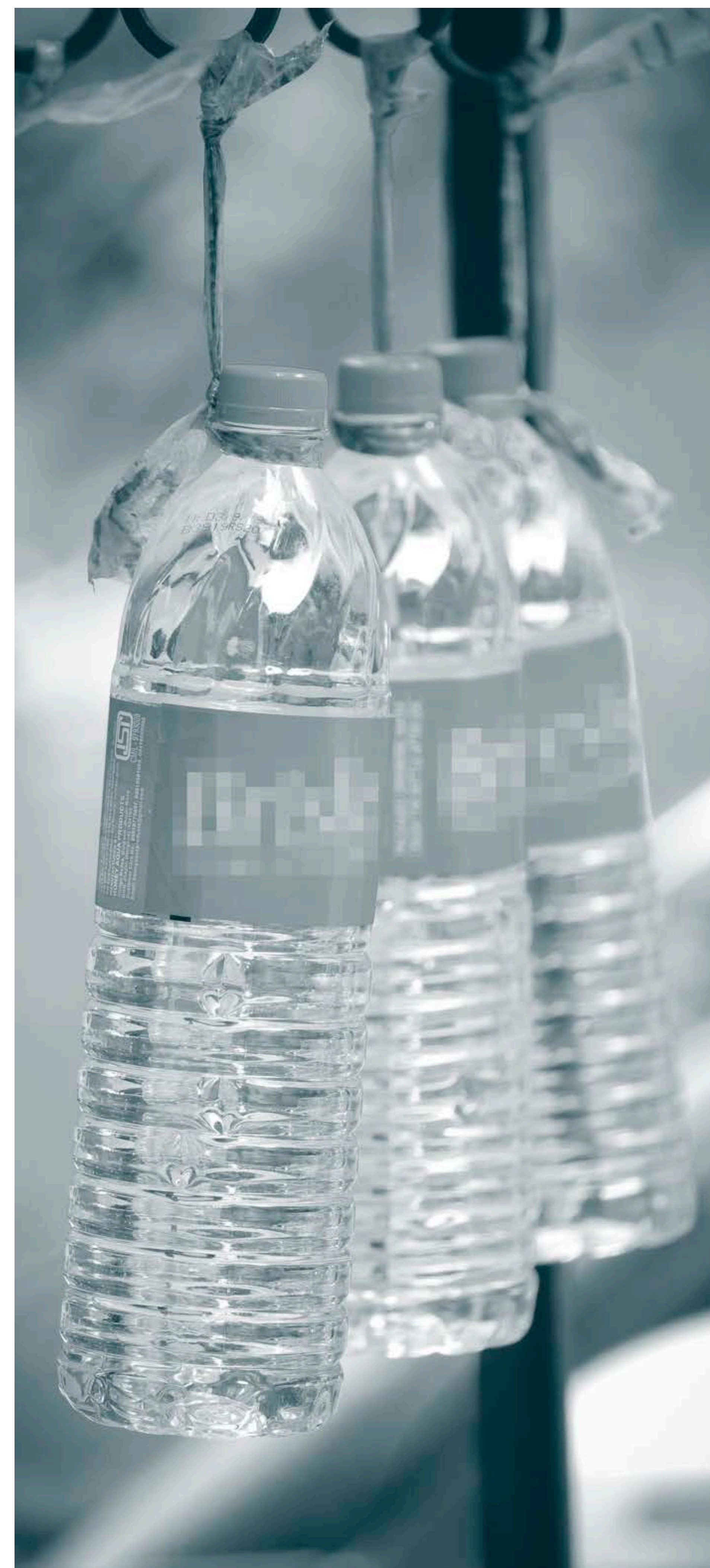
Eighty per cent (80%) in terms of weight of single use containers registered in terms of the Scheme as having been placed on the market during the said period.

**1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 -**

Eighty-five per cent (85%) in terms of weight of single use containers registered in terms of the Scheme as having been placed on the market during the said period.

**1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026 and for every calendar year thereafter -**

Ninety per cent (90%) in terms of weight of single use containers registered in terms of the Scheme as having been placed on the market during the said period.



**(iii) Material Stream III: beverage containers made from glass**

**From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 -**

Seventy per cent (70%) in terms of weight of single use containers registered in terms of the Scheme as having been placed on the market during the said period.

**1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 -**

Seventy per cent (70%) in terms of weight of single use containers registered in terms of the Scheme as having been placed on the market during the said period.

**1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 -**

Eighty per cent (80%) in terms of weight of single use containers registered in terms of the Scheme as having been placed on the market during the said period.

**1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 -**

Eighty-five per cent (85%) in terms of weight of single use containers registered in terms of the Scheme as having been placed on the market during the said period.

**1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026 and for every calendar year thereafter -**

Ninety per cent (90%) in terms of weight the single use containers registered in terms of the Scheme as having been placed on the market during the said period.

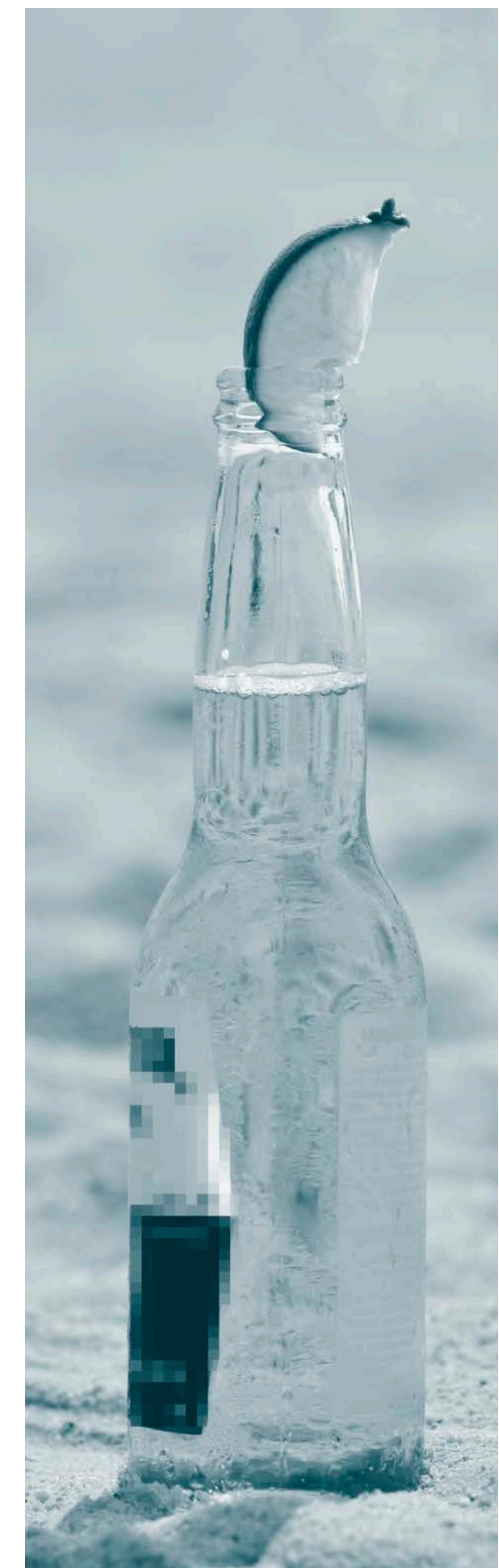




Figure (Fig. 06) below presents the total percentage of beverage containers collected from the market against the total number of containers placed on the market, for the period 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022. As delineated in the figure below, the quantities are reported in terms of material streams, in-line with the stipulated targets in the Scheme Regulations. It is pertinent to note that 95% of the total beverage containers collected were exported for recycling.

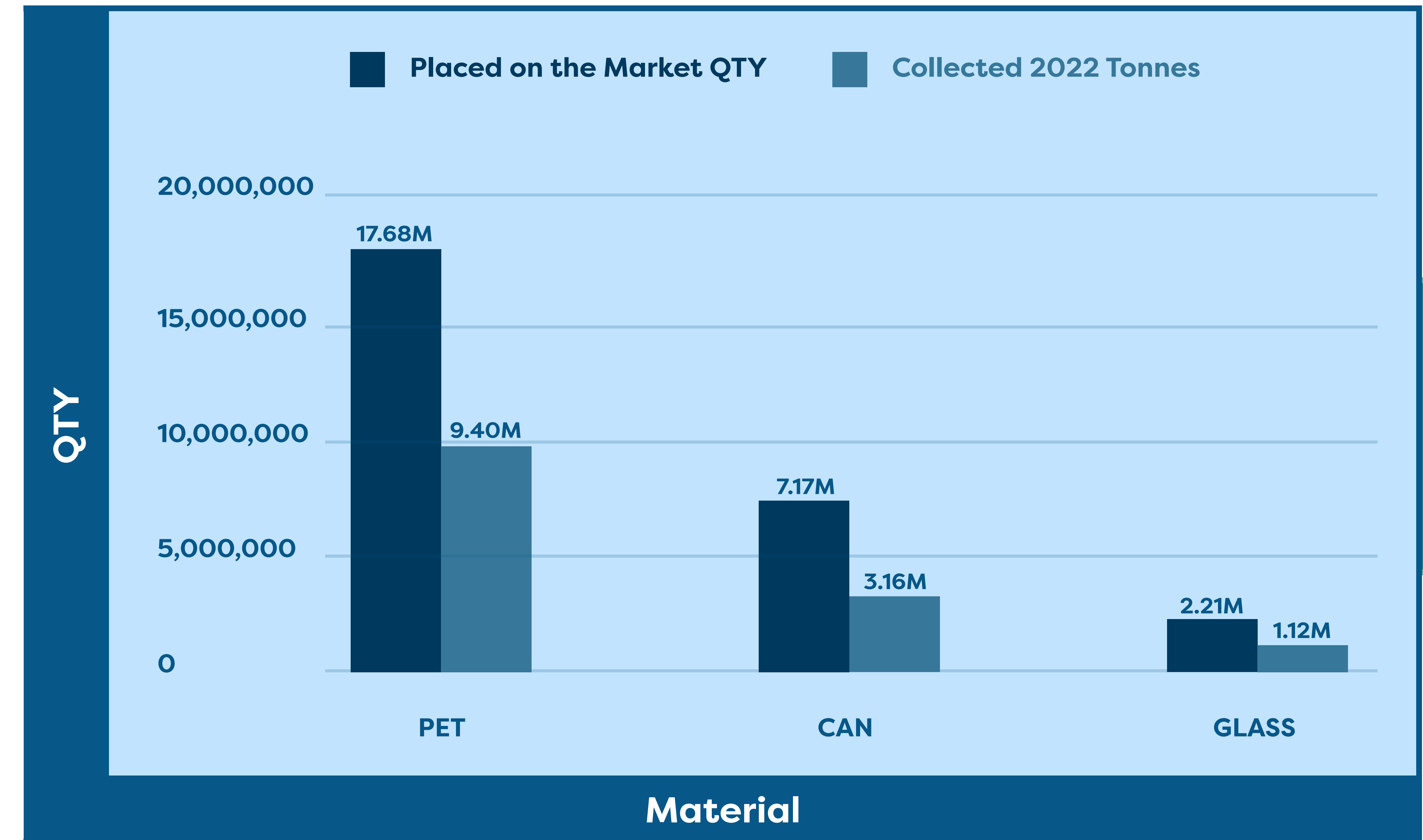
It is worth noting that in 2022 the Scheme was in operation from 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 until the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2022, a mere month and a half. Consequently, the data available, as reported by BCRS Malta Ltd, is statistically insufficient and unreliable to generate relevant trends and extrapolations for an entire reference year.

In furtherance, the nature of the beverage market is unquestionably characterized by seasonality factors leading to challenges when the data available for analysis does not cover sufficient periods. It is important to note that this period was characterized by several external factors, which are inevitable in the initial phases of any national Scheme. Such factors include among others misconceptions vis-à-vis the

Scheme and resistance to change. In addition, it is worth mentioning that some of the economic operators involved were still in the process of having the necessary operations set up in preparation for the launch of the Scheme. It is also an undeniable fact that the licensed operator faced several unforeseen challenges.

Notwithstanding the above, CEMalta interprets the collection rate for 2022 positively. Moreover, it is evident that the take-up vis-à-vis the Scheme was strong, and CEMalta looks forward to 2023 as a year characterized by growth and progress in this regard. CEMalta in its role as Regulator of the Scheme, together with BCRS Malta Ltd, perceives the hurdles faced during 2022 as part of a learning curve, and areas on which it shall be improving and working progressively, with the sole objective of enhancing the operational aspect of the Scheme both from a consumer point of view as well as from the industry's perspective.

As per Regulation 36 of Subsidiary Legislation 549.134, the Agency is hereby providing an *annex* to this report, a copy of the financial position of the beverage container refund scheme as provided by the licensed operator.



\* From 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

\* Total processed for recycling vs collected: 95%.

|              | Placement on the market in tonnes year 2022 | Total Collected in Tonnes Year 2022 | % Total Collection vs Market Placement in tonnes |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| PET          | 546.79                                      | 298                                 | 54%                                              |
| CAN          | 105.38                                      | 48                                  | 46%                                              |
| GLASS        | 558.46                                      | 279                                 | 50%                                              |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1,210.63</b>                             | <b>625</b>                          | <b>51.6%</b>                                     |

\* From 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

Source: Quarterly Report 4/22



### 4.3

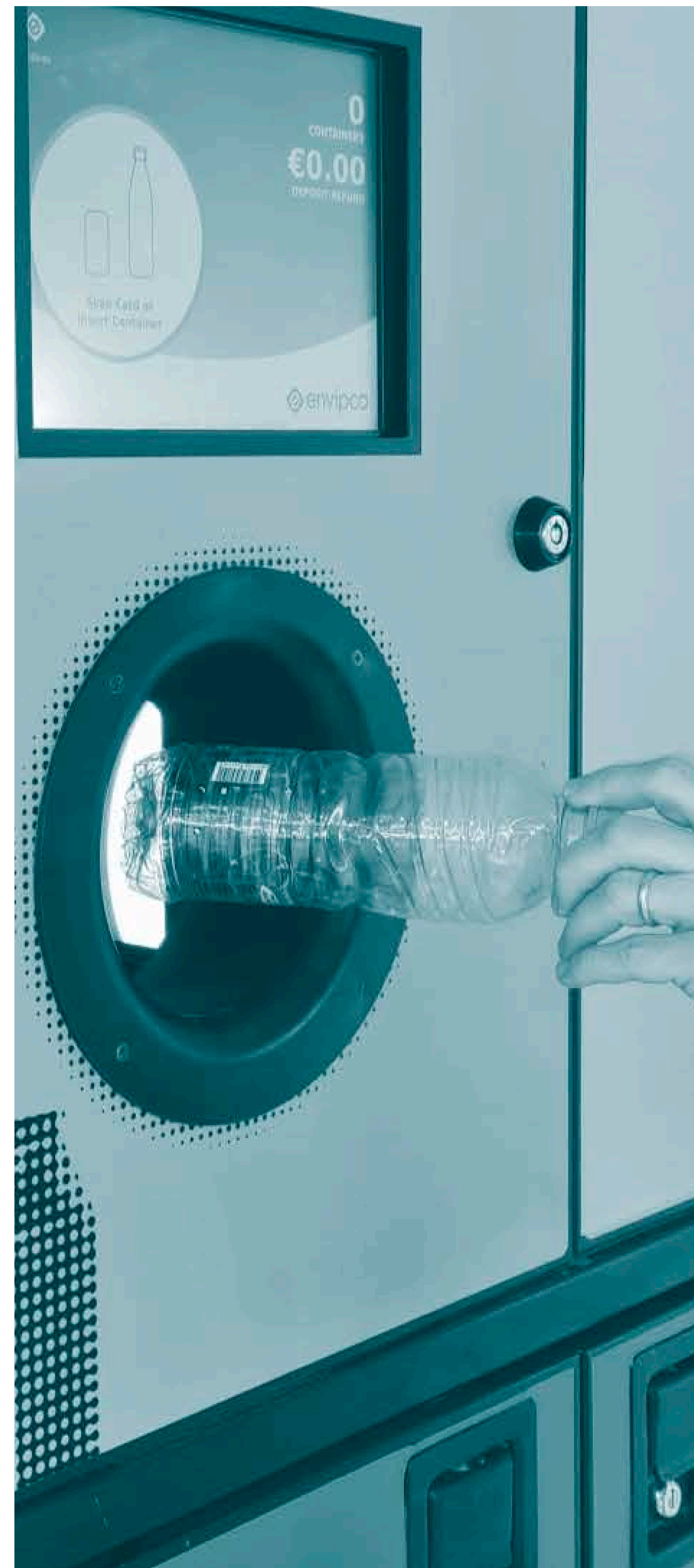
## The Scheme Infrastructure - The Reverse Vending Machines

The Beverage Container Refund Scheme is powered by the latest IoT and engineering technologies to facilitate the achievement of collection goals.

The Scheme encourages consumers to return their beverage containers to one of the many RVMs that are installed around Malta and Gozo. These RVMs use the latest technology to scan each beverage container that is returned, thus effectively ensuring that it is in scope of the Scheme. It is pertinent to note that there are two (2) types of RVMs: the Public Hubs, which RVMs are installed across public spaces in Malta and Gozo, and issue vouchers that can be redeemed at any outlet that sells beverages in scope of the Scheme, and the Retail RVMs, which are installed in specific retail shops and which vouchers can only be redeemed at that specific retail shop and/or the outlets within the same chain of retail.

IoT technology connects all RVMs together and provides BCRS Malta Ltd with real time information. The IT system which supports BCRS Malta Ltd and the RVMs regulates the collection and separation of returned containers creating an intelligent network that effectively governs the system automatically, efficiently, and securely.

An interactive map with the locations of the various RVMs spread across Malta and Gozo is available on BCRS Malta Ltd's website and is live on Google Maps. Consumers can thus locate their respective nearest RVM, as easy as looking for any other service and/or shop.



Used beverage containers collected via the RVMs are sent to BCRS Ltd's Clearing Site in Hal-Far, a state-of-the-art purposely built lightweight environmentally friendly building made of wood, glass, and concrete, equipped with the most advanced waste management technology.

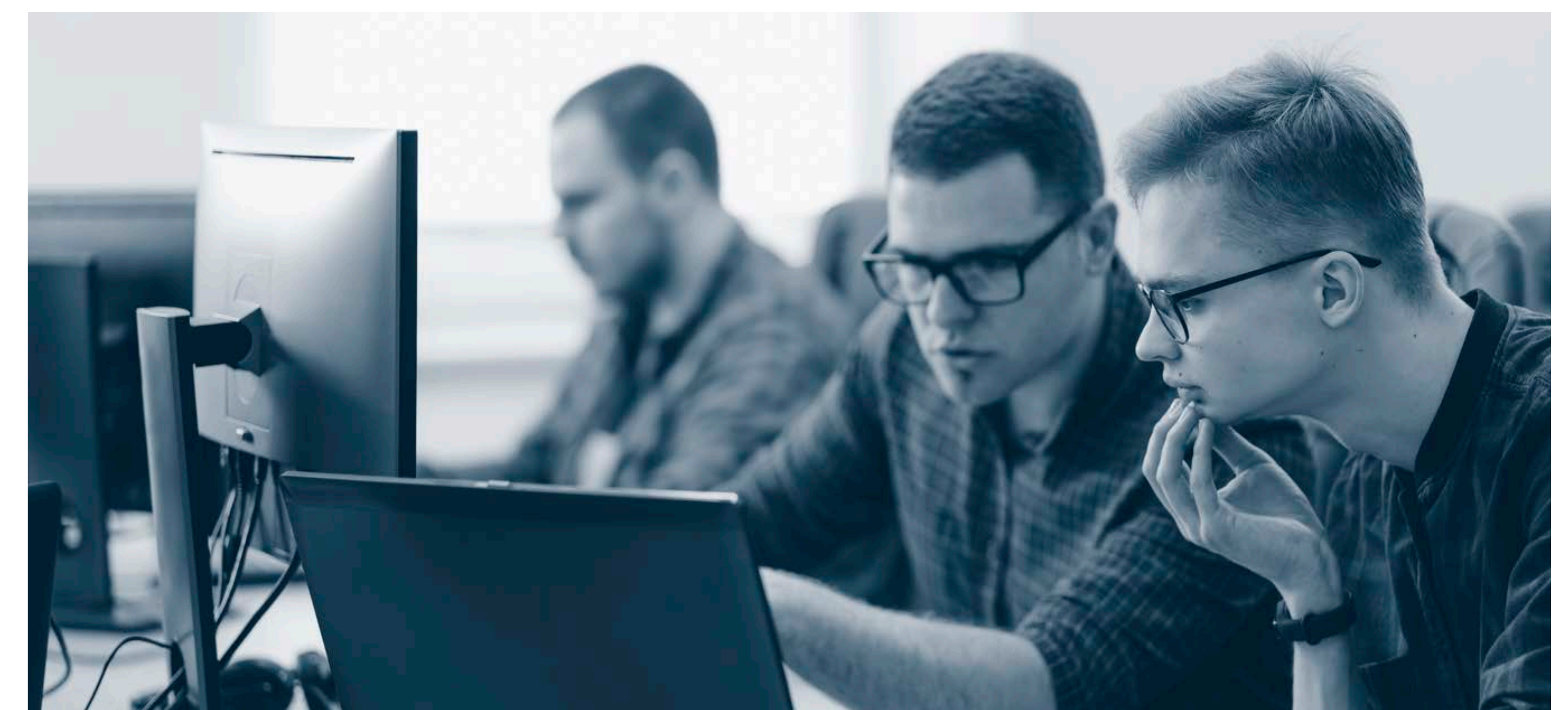
The IT system in place, commissioned to a company from Europe that has already implemented a number of deposit refund systems, links through the IoT technology the RVMs across Malta to the clearing centre.

Figure (Fig. 07) below lists the number and locations of RVMs as at the end of year 2022:

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| RETAIL       | 156 RVMs        |
| HOTELS       | 16 RVMs         |
| HUBS         | 124 RVMs        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>296 RVMs</b> |

Fig. 07

\* From 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022





## Public Hubs

| Locality          | Location/<br>Street Name  | Number<br>of RVMs |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Birżebbuġa        | Misraħ is-Summit          | 2                 |
| Cospicua          | Under Bastions            | 2                 |
| Għarghur          | Triq Giovanni Gafà        | 2                 |
| Gżira             | Sliema Road               | 3                 |
| Luxol Park & Ride | Park & Ride               | 5                 |
| Luxol Park & Ride | Park & Ride               | 5                 |
| Marsaskala        | Bajja ta' San Tumas       | 2                 |
| Qormi 1           | Triq L-Imdina             | 2                 |
| Qormi 2           | Triq il-Wied              | 2                 |
| Rabat             | Triq Buzugrilla           | 2                 |
| San Ġwann         | Triq il-Qasab             | 2                 |
| Siġġiewi          | Near football ground      | 2                 |
| Swatar            | Triq is-Swatar            | 2                 |
| Żabbar            | Triq Villa Abbate         | 3                 |
| Dingli            | Near football ground      | 2                 |
| Kalkara           | Near Local Council office | 2                 |
| Mġarr             | Triq il-Ganfra            | 2                 |
| Msida             | Triq L-Irmigg             | 2                 |

Fig. 08

\* From 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

## Public Hubs

| Locality             | Location/<br>Street Name                    | Number<br>of RVMs |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Pietà                | Triq Joe Gasan                              | 2                 |
| Santa Venera         | Canon Road                                  | 2                 |
| Floriana             | Near Planning Authority                     | 6                 |
| Gudja                | Triq L-Ghejlell                             | 2                 |
| Mellieħa             | Near Welbees in Parking                     | 3                 |
| Paola                | Behind Local<br>Council Building            | 2                 |
| Marsaxlokk           | Triq tat-Trunciera<br>Parking Area          | 3                 |
| Vittoriosa           | Entrance to Marina                          | 2                 |
| Xemxija              | Near Kiosk -<br>Xatt il-Pwales              | 4                 |
| Żurrieq              | Behind Ġibjun garden                        | 3                 |
| Tarxien              | Near School -<br>Pjazza Agatha Barbara      | 2                 |
| Fgura                | Triq Mahatma Gandhi                         | 2                 |
| Attard               | Triq L-Ghenba                               | 2                 |
| Żejtun               | Triq Toni Zahra                             | 3                 |
| Mqabba               | Triq Hal-Kirkop<br>(opposite cemetery)      | 2                 |
| Pembroke             | Opposite Maypole                            | 2                 |
| Sliema (Tower Road)  | Promenade -<br>Taormina beach area          | 4                 |
| Sliema (Qui Si Sana) | Promenade Qui Si Sana<br>near Bring in Site | 4                 |

Fig. 08

\* From 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022



| Public Hubs         |                                      |                   |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Locality            | Location/<br>Street Name             | Number<br>of RVMs |
| Marsaskala          | Near Bring in Site -<br>under Church | 3                 |
| Haz-Żebbuġ          | In front of Local Council            | 2                 |
| Birkirkara (Centre) | Outside Birkirkara<br>Civic Centre   | 3                 |
| Hal-Far 1 & 2       | BCRS Clearing Centre                 | 4                 |
| St Paul's Bay       | Xatt, near Marco<br>Tanti Gelateria  | 4                 |
| St Paul's Bay       | Mosta Road                           | 4                 |
| University of Malta | Msida                                | 1                 |
| Paceville           | Baystreet                            | 2                 |
| Kalkara             | Esplora                              | 1                 |
| Msida               | Junior College                       | 1                 |
| Marsalforn          | Car Park Near<br>Public Convenience  | 2                 |
| Gharb               | Near Public School                   | 2                 |
| Xewkija             | Xewkija Industrial Estate            | 2                 |
|                     |                                      | <b>124</b>        |

Fig. 08

\* From 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

| Retail       |                                   |                   |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Locality     | Outlet<br>Specific Name           | Number<br>of RVMs |
| Qormi        | Joseph Sultana                    | 2                 |
| Qormi        | Modern Store                      | 1                 |
| Qormi        | LIDL Qormi                        | 5                 |
| Qormi        | Pavi Supermarket                  | 4                 |
| Hamrun       | SPAR - Daniel's Hamrun            | 1                 |
| Hamrun       | Alfsons                           | 2                 |
| St. Julian's | Arkadia Supermarket               | 2                 |
| St. Julian's | Welbee's Supermarket<br>P/GARDENS | 2                 |
| Swieqi       | Corner Food Store                 | 2                 |
| Swieqi       | HEALTHY LIFE STYLE                | 1                 |
| Gżira        | Orient                            | 1                 |
| Sliema       | Welbee's Supermarket              | 2                 |
| Sliema       | Lidl Sliema                       | 3                 |
| St. Julian's | Welbee's Supermarket -<br>Spinola | 2                 |
| San Ġwann    | Lidl San Ġwann                    | 4                 |
| San Ġwann    | Save-Mart                         | 1                 |
| Rabat        | Ta' Karla                         | 2                 |
| Attard       | G & G Self Service                | 1                 |

Fig. 09

\* From 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022



**Fig. 09**

| Retail         |                         |                |
|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Locality       | Outlet Specific Name    | Number of RVMs |
| Birkirkara     | Smart Supermarket       | 5              |
| Mosta          | LIDL Mosta              | 5              |
| Mosta          | Pama Supermarket        | 5              |
| Naxxar         | Welbee's Supermarket    | 2              |
| Luqa           | LIDL Luqa               | 5              |
| Safi           | LIDL Safi               | 5              |
| Żejtun         | LIDL Żejtun             | 5              |
| Paola          | Antonio Piscopo W & S   | 3              |
| Santa Venera   | Welbee's Supermarket    | 3              |
| St. Paul's Bay | Piscopo Cash & Carry    | 3              |
| Tarxien        | Chain Supermarket       | 2              |
| St. Andrew's   | Greens Supermarket      | 2              |
| Mellieħa       | Welbee's Supermarket    | 2              |
| Għaxaq         | Tal Kawwar Cash & Carry | 2              |
| Mellieħa       | Bottles & Bottles       | 2              |
| Victoria       | Dirjanu                 | 2              |
| Mrieħel        | Farsons Direct          | 2              |
| Qormi          | Favell Wines & Spirits  | 2              |

\* From 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

**Fig. 09**

| Retail         |                              |                |
|----------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Locality       | Outlet Specific Name         | Number of RVMs |
| Hamrun         | Food Box                     | 2              |
| Victoria       | G&R Warehouse                | 2              |
| Għaxaq         | J Micallef                   | 2              |
| Mellieħa       | Danish Village Mini Market   | 1              |
| Victoria       | Greens Supermarket Gozo      | 1              |
| Żebbuġ         | Dave's - Żebbuġ              | 1              |
| Qawra          | Anna's Confectionary         | 1              |
| St. Paul's Bay | Euro Saver                   | 1              |
| Gżira          | Frank Borda Ltd. Gala Centre | 1              |
| Marsaxlokk     | Spar Marsaxlokk              | 1              |
| Victoria       | Wisto Company Ltd.           | 1              |
| Victoria       | LIDL Gozo                    | 5              |
| Qawra          | Welbee's Supermarket         | 2              |
| Nadur          | Zimmek (Joseph Camilleri)    | 2              |
| Mellieħa       | C. Vella & Sons              | 1              |
| Santa Venera   | LIDL Santa Venera            | 5              |
| Fgura          | Chain Supermarket            | 2              |
| Marsalforn     | Lighthouse Supermarket       | 2              |

\* From 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022



**Retail**

| Locality         | Outlet Specific Name      | Number of RVMs |
|------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Valetta          | Gigi's                    | 1              |
| Buġibba          | Spar Buġibba              | 1              |
| Sigġiewi         | Zibgi Hawker              | 2              |
| Birkirkara       | X Zone - Swatar           | 1              |
| Xewkija          | Abraham's Vini e Capricci | 1              |
| Żabbar           | Scotts                    | 2              |
| St. Paul's Bay   | Giormina                  | 2              |
| Marsaskala       | Toni's Wines & Spirits    | 2              |
| Mriehel          | Greens Quad               | 4              |
| UoM Campus Hub   | Welbee's                  | 2              |
| The Point, Tigne | Spar                      | 2              |
| Qawra            | Iceland                   | 1              |
| Żabbar           | Chain Supermarket         | 1              |
| Burmarrad        | LIDL                      | 4              |
| Għajnsielem      | Ta' Dirjanu               | 2              |

Fig. 09

\* From 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

CEMalta looks forward to 2023 as more RVMs shall be installed across Malta and Gozo, ensuring accessibility for consumers.

Moreover, (Fig. 11) delineates the aggregate quantity of beverage containers by typology collected by the RVMs as at end of year 2022.

**Collection by RVMs in Quantity**

| Material     | Collection by RVMs in Quantity |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| PET          | 9,205,944                      |
| CAN          | 2,998,320                      |
| GLASS        | 896,052                        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>13,100,316</b>              |

Fig. 11

\* From 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

**Hotels**

| Locality  | Street Name            | Number of RVMs |
|-----------|------------------------|----------------|
| Paceville | Intercontinental Hotel | 2              |
| Paceville | Hilton Malta           | 2              |
| Paceville | Westin Dragonara       | 2              |
| Mellieħa  | DB Seabank             | 2              |
| Qawra     | DB San Antonio         | 2              |
| Floriana  | Excelsior              | 2              |
| Sliema    | The Victoria Hotel     | 2              |
| Paceville | Corinthia San Gorg     | 2              |
|           |                        | <b>16</b>      |

Fig. 10

\* From 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022



## 4.4

### Manual Collection

Regulation 18 (1) of S.L 549.134 stipulates that:

*“Each retail establishment shall have a system in place for the return of single use containers by consumers and, subject to the provisions of sub-regulation (1) of regulation 16, shall be obliged to accept the said single use containers...omnis...”*

Thus, in the case that retail establishments do not have a RVM installed in their premise for the return of beverage containers, Retailers shall accept the manual return of beverage containers as applicable, in-line with the conditions set out in the Regulations, and thus within the parameters thereof.

Moreover, Regulation 16 (4) establishes that:

*“Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions, the licensed operator shall issue instructions to catering undertakings regarding the return of single use containers consumed at catering establishments, and the refund by the licensed operator of the deposit paid by the catering undertakings to their predecessor in the supply chain.”*

The data in (Fig. 12) details the number of beverage containers, and the total quantity in weight, that was collected by BCRS Malta Ltd via the manual collection for year 2022.

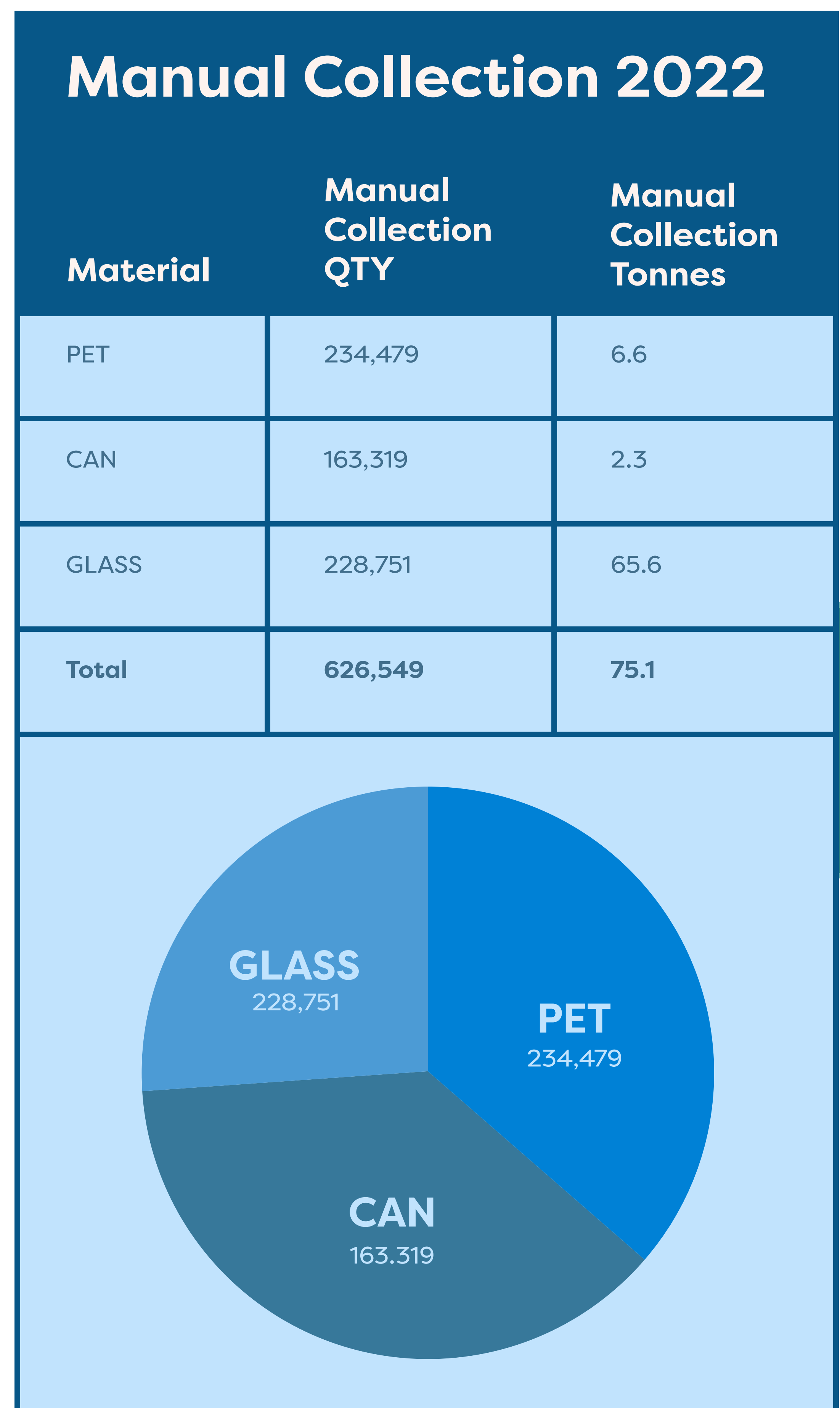


Fig. 12

\* From 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

## 4.5

### Exemption from the Scheme -

#### Part IV of Subsidiary Legislation 549.134

In accordance with Part IV of Subsidiary Legislation 549.134, Producers who already have in place an appropriate deposit return system for the collection and reuse of beverage containers falling within scope of the Regulations, shall register with the Agency for an official exemption from the Scheme. Producers of refillable beverage containers shall also register their respective products per typology with the Agency, for such products to be exempt.

It is pertinent to note that the relevant barcodes of refillable beverage containers are subsequently sent to BCRS Malta Ltd, to ensure that the RVMs recognize these products and notify consumers that they are refillable in the case that they are erroneously disposed in the machines.

Such Producers shall submit this request in writing and shall submit to the Agency documentation that corroborates the said return system within their respective business model. Upon vetting and approval of the application, CEMalta issues a certificate attesting to this exemption. It is pertinent to mention that Subsidiary Legislation 549.134 lays down a set of obligations for Producers of refillable beverage containers who are exempt from the Scheme.

In fact, the Regulations include a separate set of collection targets to be met by such Producers, as per below:

#### From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 -

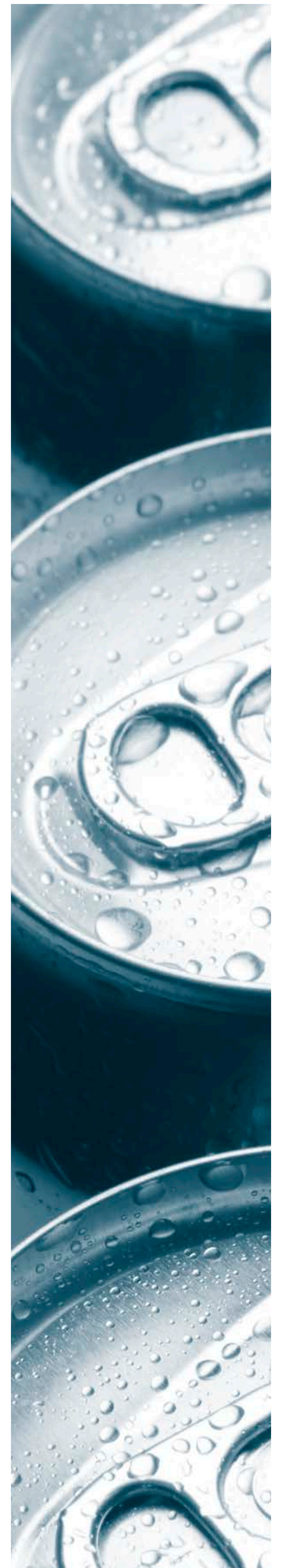
Seventy per cent (70%) in terms of weight of the refillable containers registered by the producer as having been placed on the market during the said period.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 -

Seventy per cent (70%) in terms of weight of the refillable containers registered by the producer as having been placed on the market during the said period.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 -

Eighty per cent (80%) in terms of weight of the refillable containers registered by the producer as having been placed on the market during the said period.





**1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 -**

Eighty-five per cent (85%) in terms of weight of the refillable containers registered by the producer as having been placed on the market during the said period.

**1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026 and for every calendar year thereafter -**

Ninety per cent (90%) in terms of weight of the refillable containers registered by the producer

as having been placed on the market during the said period. (Fifth Schedule of S.L 549.134)

During the year 2022, two (2) producers of refillable beverage containers were registered with the Agency. Furthermore, a total of twenty-five (25) refillable products were registered with the Agency.

The list below encompasses the beverage products which fall under the First Schedule of Beverage Containers Recycling Regulations, that form part of a

Producer Deposit Return System for their collection, and their respective deposit amounts.

Thus, the products hereunder are packaged in refillable beverage containers and are returned to the respective producer for reuse following consumption.

In congruence with the Subsidiary Legislation in question:

*“Producers placing refillable containers on the market, who either no longer wish to operate the system for the refillable containers in question, or who no longer wish to reuse beverage containers shall inform the Agency accordingly and shall register with the operator pursuant to regulation 13.”*

Thus, Producers are legally required to inform the Agency to officially de-register products that no longer form part of a separate deposit return system, to ensure these are registered with the Scheme accordingly.

Subsidiary Legislation 549.134, Regulation 22, stipulates that:

*“Producers who place refillable containers on the market shall supply the Agency with:*

*(a) the aggregate volume of refillable containers that have been placed on the market by quantity, and weight by typology of the refillable container;*

*(b) the aggregate volume of refillable containers collected from the market by quantity and weight by typology of refillable container;*

*(c) any such other information as may be required by the Agency from time to time. Such information shall be filed with the Agency on a quarterly basis but in any case, not later than fifteen (15) days from the end of each quarter.”*

Fig. 13

| Product Description         | Deposit Amount (€) |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 7 UP 25cl                   | 0.10               |
| Britvic Bitter Lemon 25cl   | 0.10               |
| Britvic Ginger Ale 25cl     | 0.10               |
| Britvic Soda Water 25cl     | 0.10               |
| Britvic Tonic Water 25cl    | 0.10               |
| Budweiser 25cl              | 0.10               |
| Cisk 0.0 25cl               | 0.10               |
| Cisk Chill Berry 25cl       | 0.10               |
| Cisk Chill Lemon 25cl       | 0.10               |
| Cisk Chill Ginger Lime 25cl | 0.10               |
| Cisk Excel 25cl             | 0.10               |
| Cisk Lager 25cl             | 0.10               |

\* From 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

| Product Description       | Deposit Amount (€) |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Cisk Lager 50cl           | 0.17               |
| Fontana 0.25L (Sparkling) | 0.13               |
| Fontana 0.25L (Still)     | 0.13               |
| Fontana 0.75L (Sparkling) | 0.30               |
| Fontana 0.75L (Still)     | 0.30               |
| Hopleaf 25cl              | 0.10               |
| Hopleaf 50cl              | 0.17               |
| Lacto 25cl                | 0.10               |
| Mirinda 25cl              | 0.10               |
| Pepsi 25cl                | 0.10               |
| Pepsi Max 25cl            | 0.10               |
| Shandy 25cl               | 0.10               |
| Skol 50cl                 | 0.17               |

Fig. 13

\* From 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022





Henceforth, Producers of refillable beverage containers have separate reporting obligations, which emanate from the collection targets stipulated in the Legislation, as previously mentioned.

Registered Producers of refillable beverage containers report the number of beverage containers, by typology in units and in terms of weight, collected from the market against the number placed on the market respectively, on a quarterly basis. The reports are collated at the end of each reference year to determine the collection rate at the end of the year vis-à-vis the targets stipulated in the Regulations.

(Fig. 14) delineates total number by typology of refillable beverage containers placed on the market by producers, and the quantity by typology of refillable containers collected for reuse by such producers, for the year 2022.



| Year | Placement on Market (kgs) | Collection from Market for Reuse (kgs) | Collection Rate (%) | Refillable Bottles Deposit Balance (€) |
|------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 2022 | 3,685,375                 | 3,434,085                              | 93.18               | 134,404.40                             |



The Agency monitors quarter by quarter the collection rate of each registered producer of refillable containers respectively.

It is worth underlining that (Fig. 14) confirms that for the year 2022, registered producers of refillable beverage containers exceeded the stipulated collection target of 70% by more than 20 percentage points.

This corroborates that the registered deposit return systems currently in place by said producers are in fact high-performing and effective, especially from an environmental point of view, and that these deposit return systems are key tools to reach Malta's ambitious commitments vis-à-vis waste collection and re-use.





## 4.6

### Complaints Received by the Agency

In congruence with Regulation 36 (f) of Subsidiary Legislation 549.134, with the launch of the Scheme in November 2022 CEMalta has endeavored to investigate, address, register and follow up on complaints received in relation to the Scheme regulations.

It is pertinent to note that being ISO14001:2015 certified, CEMalta commits to ensure that such complaints are recorded, for transparency, accuracy, and reliability purposes.

Responsiveness and efficiency are two values that lie at the heart of the Agency.

To this end, the Agency strives to acknowledge receipt of complaints within 48 hours, and to provide necessary feedback addressing such complaints in a timely manner, ensuring stakeholders are satisfied with the service provided.

The year 2022 was no exception to the rule, as CEMalta strived to exert its regulatory powers as

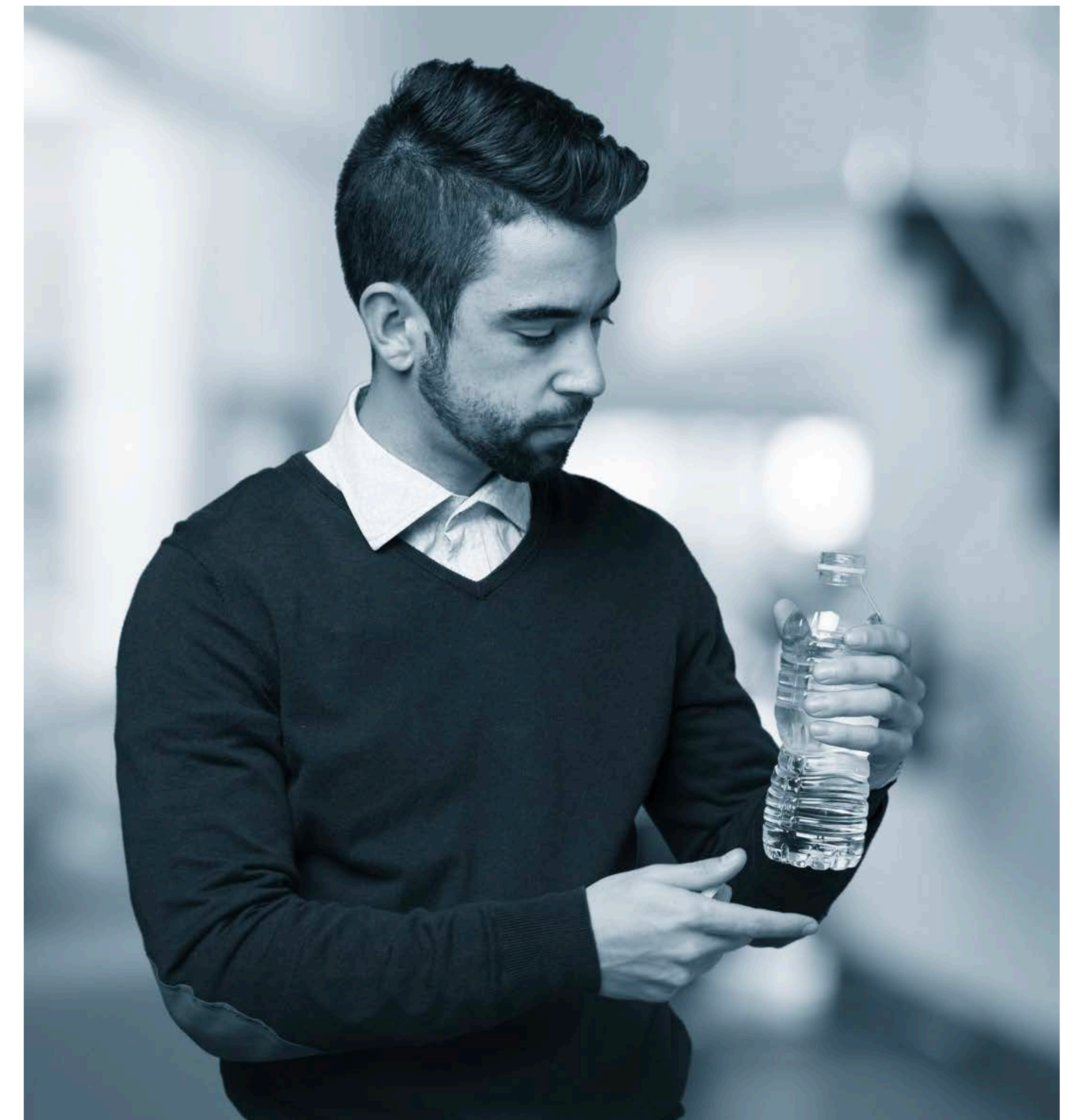
required. (Fig. 16) below lists the number of official complaints received and logged, as well as the source from which the complaints originated. (Fig. 16) below displays the number of complaints received during 2022 from the public, stakeholders, economic operators involved in the Scheme, and the licensed operator vis-à-vis the Scheme.

(Fig. 16) indicates that most complaints received during 2022 hailed from the public and the economic operators.

Considering that the complaints listed in the table in question cover the period from 14th November 2022 to 31st December 2022, one may deduce that most complaints revolved around minor setbacks, which are to be expected when introducing a new deposit return system nationwide, a Scheme that evidently, called for a shift in the culture and the mentality.

| Source                                    | 14 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 2022 | 1 <sup>st</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup> Dec. 2022 | Total for 2022 |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------|
| General Public                            | 4                                            | 2                                           | 6              |
| Stakeholders                              | 0                                            | 0                                           | 0              |
| Economic Operators involved in the Scheme | 2                                            | 5                                           | 7              |
| Licensed Operator                         | 0                                            | 2                                           | 2              |
| Government Entities                       | 0                                            | 0                                           | 0              |
|                                           |                                              | <b>Total number of complaints received</b>  | <b>15</b>      |

\* From 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022





## 4.7

### Breaches

During 2022, CEMalta embarked on a number of initiatives to address and mitigate situations which may have had the potential to impinge negatively on the Scheme in congruence with the relevant regulations. CEMalta is in a position to declare that most of the preemptive actions adopted produced effectively positive outcomes.

In order to ascertain that actions taken by the Agency are in conformance with the relevant regulations, in 2022, CEMalta engaged a professional consultancy firm. The objective of this Contract of Service was to procure professional advice vis-à-vis various legal issues pertaining to the Scheme and to ensure transparency, accuracy, and efficacy on behalf of CEMalta in exercising its function as a Regulator.





## 4.8

### Financial Position of the Scheme and of the deposit refund account of the operator

BCRS Malta Ltd is required by Subsidiary Legislation 549.134 to provide the Agency with the Financial Position of the Scheme and of the deposit refund account.

To this end, CEMalta is hereby reproducing the table below. It is pertinent to note that figures provided were presented to BCRS Malta Ltd by RSM Malta, an independent third party auditor, and are being reproduced by the Agency as part of this Annual Report.

Below, is a reconciliation, summarising the above points:

|                                                                                                         | Deposits for beverage container account - (included in Note 15 to the financial statements) | Collections/ payments traced in the bank account | Outstanding balance as at 31/12/2022 | Remarks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                         | €                                                                                           | €                                                | €                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Deposits receivable from producers and importers on beverage containers placed on the market            | (2,706,931.50)                                                                              | 16,065.40                                        | (2,690,866.10)                       | As at 31/12/2022, only the amount of €16,065.40 was collected. The amount of €1,823,662 was accrued for since the invoices were issued on 10/01/2023. Credit terms is 60 days after issuance of invoice.                                                                                                           |
| Deposits payable on redeemed containers (including both through redeemed vouchers & manual collections) | 958,167.80                                                                                  |                                                  | 958,167.80                           | As at 31/12/2022 no payments were made to retailers. The amount of €958,187 was accrued for since the invoices were issued on 12/01/2023. Credit terms is 90 days after issuance of invoice for retailers; for HoReCa 120 days.                                                                                    |
| Redeemed vouchers forfeited to charity organisations                                                    |                                                                                             |                                                  |                                      | From the November and December redeemed vouchers, there was the amount of €14,601, forfeited to charity organisation. This will be reflected in the books in the financial year ended 31/12/2023, since the aggregation and the actual purchase invoices for November and December were issued on 12 January 2023. |
|                                                                                                         | -1,748,763,70                                                                               | 16,065,40                                        | -1,732,698,30                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Amount as per financial statements                                                                      | -1,746,943,00                                                                               |                                                  |                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Amount as per bank statement                                                                            |                                                                                             | 16,063,07                                        |                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Variance                                                                                                | -1,820,70                                                                                   | 2,33                                             |                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                                                                                         | Note A                                                                                      | Note B                                           |                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

#### Note A

It was noted that the deposit payable on the containers (including both through redeemed vouchers & manual collections), accounted for in the books amounted to €959,988 instead of €958,168, a variance of €1,820. The variance is explained in part (ii) above.

#### Note B

The difference of €2.33 pertains to a cheque amounting to €73.20 which was presented in the bank statement on 02/01/2023 but was actually received during the year under review. Additionally, it was noted that two receipts both relating to administration fees were paid into the bank account amounting to €59.94.

\* Source: RSM Malta Audit Report of the Operation of the deposit refund account of BCRS Malta Ltd as at 31st December 2022.



# 5 CONCLUSION

At the time of writing of this Annual Report for year 2022, CEMalta confirms the achievement of milestones vis-à-vis the number of economic operators registered with the Scheme, as well as the number of retailers making use of the manual beverage collection system, as required by Subsidiary Legislation 549.134, in a consistent manner.

Having said that, CEMalta is adamant that work on behalf of the licensed operator must intensify at this front to ameliorate the results obtained so far. CEMalta provides continuous support to the cause to ascertain compliance with the Regulations in question.

Regarding infrastructure, it is pertinent to highlight the fact that at the time of writing of this Annual Report for year 2022, the licensed operator is rolling out several Quantum Machines – characterized by convenient bulk-feed, high-speed processing with industrial-sized collection bins and the market's most effective compaction technology - to ascertain an improved service to citizens making use of the Scheme. Consistently with this, throughout the year 2023 BCRS Malta Ltd has been effectively distributing and installing a considerable number of RVMs across the Maltese islands to better accommodate consumers and/or economic operators.

During 2022, CEMalta has listened to complaints emanating from senior citizens to provide assistance for this particular social group to effectively participate in the Scheme. In fact, an agreement between BCRS Malta Ltd and Silver T Service – falling under the Ministry for Senior Citizens and Active Ageing and consists of local transport for older persons to conduct their daily errands - was reached to expand the services in question to provide transport to the scheme's redemption locations, at no charges. It is important to note that the licensed operator has effectively financed a fleet of 6 electrical vehicles to implement this measure.

Conclusively, CEMalta is in a position to effectively express its satisfaction with the milestones reached so far and looks forward to ameliorating these results and sustain the targets hitherto.

Moreover, CEMalta acted as a catalyst to ascertain that an agreement is reached between the licensed operator and Local Enforcement System Agency (LESA) in order to have effective surveillance of the public hubs.







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