



## TERMS & CONDITIONS

# Bring Your Own Container (BYOC) Recognition for Economic Operators

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### 1. Disclaimer

The information provided in this document does not grant rights to any individual, nor does it impose, or exempt obligations as specified by Maltese law, public health and safety standards, and regulations. This guidance does not hold legal authority and is not enforceable. Rather, it encourages establishments to tailor their operations' safety practices, incorporating recommendations from global best practices, to align their specific operations and get recognized by the Bring Your Own Container (BYOC) initiative.

### 2. Introduction

Single-use items pose both environmental and financial challenges for businesses. The production, transportation, and disposal of these items, whether plastic or paper, demand significant resources. Minimizing the distribution and procurement of such items translates to savings in both money and environmental impact. To combat this issue, encouraging customers to utilize their reusable containers is a strategy to diminish plastic and single use waste and foster sustainable habits. A reusable container is a type of container designed and intended for multiple uses over an extended period rather than for single or limited use. These containers are typically constructed from durable materials such as plastic, glass, metal, or other materials that can withstand repeated use and cleaning without significant deterioration.

The Bring Your Own Container (BYOC) initiative takes a proactive approach to reduce reliance on single-use items such as disposable cups, plastic bottles, and food packaging. This initiative promotes the use of reusable containers across a broad spectrum of products, spanning groceries to beauty items. By incentivizing customers who bring their own containers, businesses not only reward environmentally conscious behaviour but also contribute significantly to the reduction of disposable packaging consumption.

Circular Economy Malta (CEMalta), the overseeing agency of the BYOC initiative, is dedicated to recognising economic operators actively participating in this movement. The recognition plays a crucial role in raising consumer awareness and instilling a sense of responsibility in consumption practices. The BYOC Partner recognition, a prestigious accolade, signifies a commitment to sustainable business practices, showcasing an active role in minimizing the environmental impact of single-use



containers. Partners achieving this recognition demonstrate their dedication to reducing waste and contribute to the transition towards a circular economy.

## 2.1 Eligibility

Any business entity operating in the Catering Undertaking and/or Retail sector, whether presently implementing or considering the introduction of a BYOC (Bring Your Own Container) initiative within their operational framework. Under the BYOC program, registered economic operators are encouraged to accept reusable containers from customers in exchange for a financial incentive at the time of purchase. A non-exhaustive list of potential financial incentives as outlined:

- Discounts.
- Loyalty programs.
- Additional content.
- Etc.

By following these guidelines, operators play a pivotal role in reshaping consumer habits and actively contribute to circular economy transition.

## 3. Legal Compliance

In the implementation of the measures abovementioned, economic operators shall refer to the relative national and European legislation, and therefore, the preparation, processing, manufacturing, packaging, storing, transportation, distribution, handling, offering for sale and food supply, shall be carried out having due regard to the rules and obligations of hygiene. Economic operators, being either catering undertakings or other undertakings operating in the retail sector, shall comply with the requirements of Annex II of Regulation (EC) 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs, and subsidiary legislation 449.31.

Moreover, the Agency hereby encourages economic operators participating in this initiative to have due regard to the provisions of subsidiary legislations 449.46 and 549.146, Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 and Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011.

**The Agency hereby informs all economic operators that they shall be responsible for any damages caused as a result of the failure to comply with the abovementioned legislation. The Agency shall in no way be held responsible for any such failure and/or damages caused by said economic operators in the implementation of the initiative.**

## 4. Communication

BYOC recognised partners shall:

Circular Economy Malta  
Level 4, Millennia Building, Aldo Moro Street, Marsa, Malta  
E: [info@cemalta.gov.mt](mailto:info@cemalta.gov.mt)  
T: 22268200



- Clearly communicate the BYOC (Bring Your Own Container) initiative to customers by prominently displaying signage and displaying the BYOC recognition logo.
  - This involves clearly specifying the type of incentive that will be provided and ensuring that the information about the offer does not mislead consumers in any way.
  - It also requires that products included in the initiative should be clearly advertised and correctly priced, enabling consumers to make informed purchases.
- Provide training for staff on the procedure to be followed when asking consumers at the cashier counter whether they require disposables or prefer to use their own reusable containers, thereby offering the BYOC incentive.
- Retailers may also opt to sell reusable BYOC items in their stores as alternatives to single-use products for customers.