

# Reusable Packaging System Design Standard



## Part 1: Collection points

### Summary of Requirements

The [Reusable Packaging System Design Standard](#) provides a foundation to align reuse systems globally so they can share infrastructure and become interoperable. This systemic approach is necessary for reuse to become affordable, efficient, and convenient, and scale across sectors and global regions in a way that provides a solution to both the climate and plastic crises.

This document summarizes the part of the standard that focuses on container *collection points*. It does not provide a prescriptive technical design for individual collection points, but establishes parameters that must be followed in order for a collection point to align with shared reuse infrastructure.

For more detailed requirements and guidance, see the document: [Part 1: Collection points](#).

### Labeling requirements

- Collection points must display the reuse symbol prominently on the outer surface of the collection point as a dominant visual cue large enough to be viewed and identified from across a street, as described in [Part 5: Labeling](#).
- Collection points must incorporate the color yellow, either via the reuse logo or in another obvious manner.
- Collection points must specify clear instructions for container return through visual and verbal cues.



### Digital requirements

- Each collection point must incorporate a digital tag that includes standardized data fields described in [Part 3: Digital](#).
- The digital tag may be a barcode, QR code, RFID or other technology that aligns with the scanning technology available to the logistics provider(s) that will be servicing the collection point.

Requirements below are broken into three types of collection points.

### Staffed collection points

Staffed collection points are establishments that rely on employees to help facilitate the collection of reuse containers. The main requirements for these locations are:

- Staffed collection points must be designed to collect all the types of reuse containers that the establishment sells. Exemptions for small businesses may exist.

- Used containers must be aggregated by employees or consumers into a bin that can be sealed with a lid and collected by logistics provider(s).
- Employees must ensure that any deposit or return incentive associated with a container is awarded to the person that returns the container to the location. They must accommodate users that are not connected to a phone app or credit card by offering the return incentive in the form of either cash, printed coupon, or credit to a reuse ID card (in regions where they exist.)

### **Automated collection machines**

Automated collection machines are not staffed and can be located indoors or outdoors, in private locations, like stores and cafes, or in public locations like street corners and parks. The main requirements for these machines are:

- Machines located in private business locations must be designed to collect all the types of reuse containers that the business sells. Exemptions for small businesses may exist.
- Machines located in public spaces should be designed to collect a variety of reusable containers that are designed to be part of the regional reuse system and follow [Part 2: Containers](#).
- Machines must be designed to accommodate and protect people with disabilities. Local accessibility regulations must be followed and/or, at a minimum, the machine must comply with the [Americans with Disability Act regulations](#), including [Section 307](#) (Protruding objects) and [Section 308](#) (Reach Ranges)
- Machines must scan containers to verify they are part of the reuse system before accepting them.
- Machines must aggregate used containers into a removable bin that can be sealed with a lid and collected by the logistics provider(s).
- Machines and their bins must be designed to accommodate significant food and beverage waste without disruption to the functioning of the unit.
- Machines must be secured with locking mechanisms to prevent theft of containers.
- Machines must be designed to accommodate a variety of incentive models and values, including both deposits and coupon models, and must award the incentive to the person that returns the container to the collection point.
- Machines must accommodate users that are not connected to a phone app or credit card by offering return incentives in the form of either cash, printed coupon, or credit to a reuse ID card (in regions where they exist.)

### **Requirements for passive, unstaffed collection bins**

Passive reuse collection bins are for use in private locations, similar to residential recycling bins. They are not tech enabled and must be serviced by logistics providers that can scan or count containers before aggregating with other containers at a recovery facility. The main requirement is that logistics provider(s) have the ability to properly keep track of containers collected at each location to ensure incentives are properly awarded.

Details related to these requirements and additional recommendations are provided in the full [Part 1: Collection points](#), including guidance on machine design and placement.