



MEDIA RELEASE

Empty bottle refunds: don't be short-changed

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10 February 2015

Do you know what refund you are entitled to when returning your empty beverage bottles? Consumers around the country are sometimes being short-changed by certain shop owners when collecting their deposits for the 200ml, 300ml, 500ml returnable glass bottles and 1.5lt returnable plastic bottles. Peninsula Beverage Company (PenBev - local bottler and distributor of The Coca-Cola Company products in the Western and Northern Cape) urges all consumers to be vigilant and make sure they receive the correct deposit for their bottles.

"It has been brought to our attention that some shop owners are not giving consumers the full refund for their empty bottles and we urge everyone to know what deposit value they should receive," said Denise Behrens, Corporate Communications Manager at PenBev.

Behrens said that shop owners were not permitted to adjust the refund prices. "The deposit values for returnable bottles are governed by the Consumer Protection Act and must be paid in full to consumers. This has been communicated to all retailers who stock returnable products on a number of occasions and is prominently displayed on point of sales in these outlets." She added that consumers were welcome to return their empty bottles to any store that sells exactly the same product, even if it was not where the bottles were purchased.

Bottles that are returnable and qualify for a deposit refund include 200ml, 300ml and 500ml returnable glass bottles with a refund value of R1.50, and 1.5lt returnable plastic bottles which afford a R3.00 refund.

"We are extremely concerned that some consumers have received as little as R1.00 for returning an empty bottle. This is unacceptable. It starts with raising awareness about the correct refund amount. All our suppliers have been informed and must comply with the legislation. The Consumer Protection Act is in place to ensure consumers are treated fairly and protected from such bad practices," said Behrens.

Returning an empty bottle for a refund is an easy and beneficial way to preserve the environment because less recyclable bottles end up in landfills. “By bringing in an empty bottle for a refund, consumers are living in a more environmentally sustainable way. Once the bottles have run their course of refill cycles, they are recycled in an environmentally friendly manner,” comments Behrens.

Behrens urges all consumers who wish to return their bottles for refunds, to ensure that the bottles have been well looked after and not used for any other purpose other than storing cool drinks. The better we look after the bottles, the more filling cycles they will have thereby helping to sustain the environment.

For more information about PenBev contact 021-936-5500 or visit www.penbev.co.za. Join PenBev’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/PenBev>

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Released by Reputation Matters
Media contact:
Lisa Sharland
Mobile: 076 373 4602
lisa@reputationmatters.co.za