

Digital DRS Development Charter

A Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) is designed to encourage consumers to recycle by offering a financial incentive, or deposit refund. A conventional DRS enables returns primarily through Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs). Digital Deposit Return Scheme (Digital DRS) is an emerging approach that uses product digitalisation to facilitate a more effective and future-proofed solution at lower financial and carbon cost compared to conventional DRS.

Besides the proven benefits of conventional DRS, Digital DRS offers further potential advantages:

- i. Lower financial cost of deployment and operation compared to conventional DRS;
- ii. Lower carbon cost from leveraging existing infrastructure and collection processes;
- iii. Wider product scope as it can include any product with a digital identifier;
- iv. Compatibility with any collection infrastructure and processes that incorporate digital connectivity to facilitate the return of containers;
- v. Enhanced consumer engagement by providing more convenience and choice to consumers;
- vi. Enables the collection of valuable data on purchasing, consumption and recycling behaviour to support full circularity.

However, Digital DRS continues to be developed and validated and it is recognised that uncertainties continue to exist within the DRS stakeholder community.

DDRS Alliance is a not-for-profit and neutral organization that believes that the power of Digital DRS will only be realised if a Global Blueprint can be developed such that all Digital DRS implementations around the World, while being varied in design and scope, operate from common standards and are mutually compatible. DDRS Alliance aims to lead and coordinate the development of Digital DRS solutions at a global level and commits to this Charter.

The signatories of this Charter agree that:

1. The potential of Digital DRS is significant;
2. Digital DRS may exist in the future as a stand-alone DRS solution or work alongside a conventional DRS as a 'hybrid' solution;
3. The development and validation of a Global Blueprint should be pursued.

I am pleased to confirm that the organisation I represent supports this Charter. By signing up to this Charter, my organisation makes no commitments to actively support any activities associated with it, only to indicate support for it. My organisation signs up to this Charter for an initial period of twelve (12) months. Continuation of support is automatic unless three (3) months' written notice to withdraw.

Signed: _____

Full name:

Position & company name:

Date of signature: