



CIRCULAR ECONOMY
MALTA

CIRCULAR ECONOMY MALTA

Annual Report 2023

Beverage Container Refund Scheme





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Our Vision

To **reduce** the amount of waste generated by promoting individual and corporate responsibility.

To create the framework for the **recovery** and **recycling** of waste.

To enhance the utilization of waste as a **resource**.

Our Mission

The Agency aims to **foster** and **facilitate** the transition from a linear to a **circular economy** through the effective governance of recyclable resources.

The Agency will measure its success on schemes and processes that enhance **innovation**, the lengthening of the **resource life cycle** and the prolongment of **recyclable material** on the market.

The Agency strives to influence the local **culture** and **perceptions** vis-à-vis the **value of resources** and **reusable waste**.



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List of Acronyms

CEMalta

CIRCULAR ECONOMY MALTA

EU

EUROPEAN UNION

S.L.

SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION

MEER

MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY
AND REGENERATION OF THE GRAND
HARBOUR

RVMS

REVERSE VENDING MACHINES

IoT

INTERNET OF THINGS

IT

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

KGS

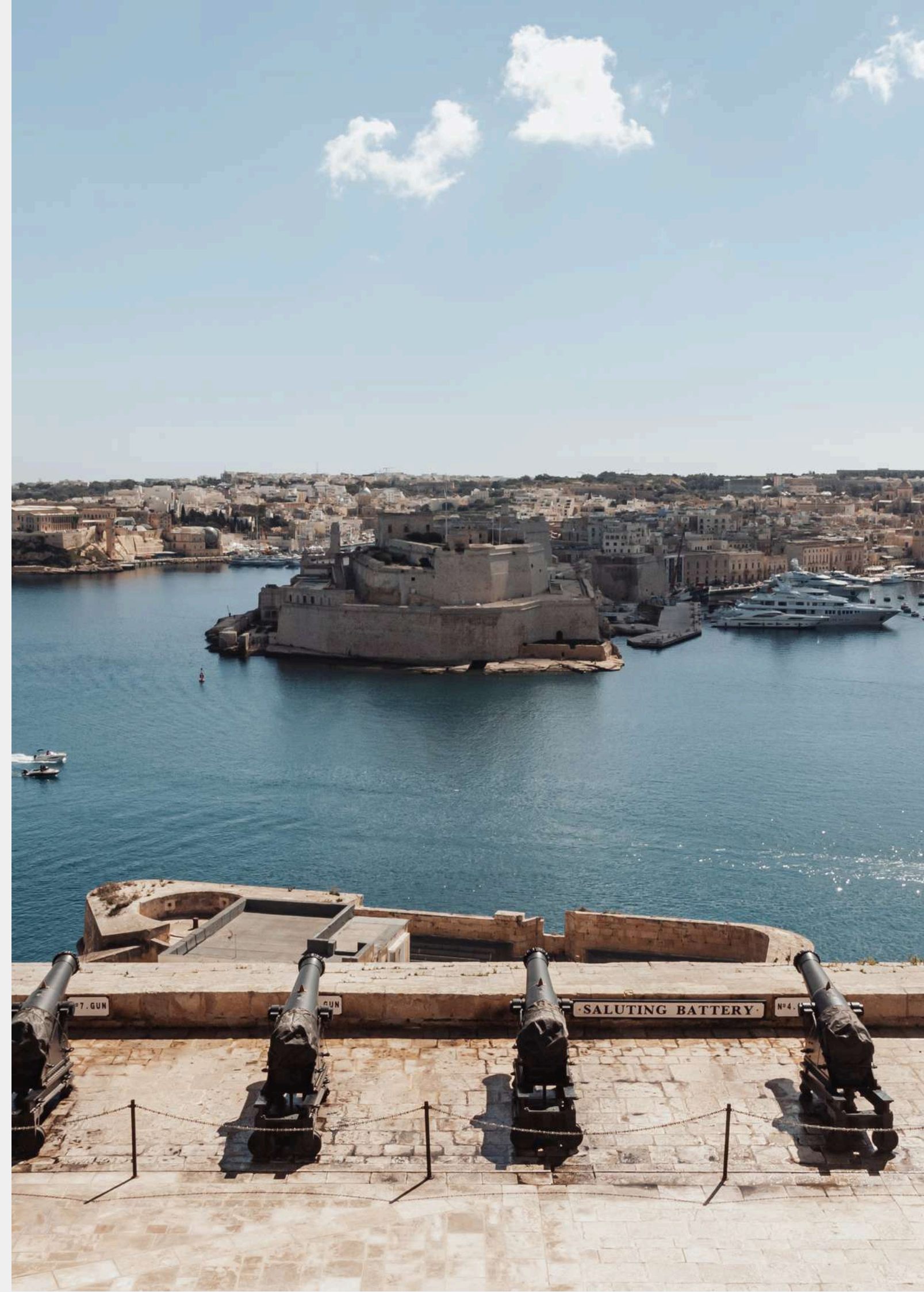
KILOGRAMS

PET

POLYETHYLENE TEREPHTHALATE

QTY

QUANTITY



Executive Summary

It is with great pleasure that as Chief Executive of Circular Economy Malta, the national Regulator of the Beverage Container Refund Scheme, I present to you the Scheme annual report for the year ending 31st December 2023. This report provides a broad summary of the Agency's achievements and reflects the Agency's incessant efforts towards continuous improvement, whilst holding close to heart the values of accountability, transparency, and good governance.

This annual report serves as a comprehensive overview of the Scheme's achievements as well as the regulatory activities undertaken by the Agency during the year under review. This report also encapsulates our strategic goals for the future in-line with the Agency's vision. As reiterated throughout this report, the Agency is dedicated towards promoting transparency, enhancing quality of service, and safeguarding the rights of both economic operators and consumers.

Following the launch of the Beverage Container Refund Scheme on 14th November 2022, the year 2023 marked the first complete year of the Scheme in operation. The year 2023 was characterised by notable achievements; a year that presented its unique set of challenges and obstacles, which the Agency embraced and transformed into opportunities for improvement. It was a year characterised by remarkable advancements – the fruits of consolidated efforts between stakeholders, and proactive regulatory interventions by the Agency.



Consumer satisfaction lies at the core of our efforts. CEMalta is pleased to report that it has actively supported initiatives to improve both the user-experience of the Scheme from a consumer point of view, as well as the economic operators'. CEMalta has worked relentlessly to bridge the gap between consumers, economic operators, and BCRS Malta Ltd and to serve as a facilitator between stakeholders.

CEMalta looks back on 2023 with a high degree of satisfaction, especially when considering the Collection and Recycling rates obtained by BCRS Malta Ltd. With a Collection rate of 80%, CEMalta acknowledges the consolidated efforts put forward by the Licensed Operator, the industry at large, as well as consumers who in turn recognise the environmental benefits of the Scheme. CEMalta looks forward to further collaborations with stakeholders to devise strategies that ensure that the Scheme is accessible, transparent, and evermore practical for end-users.

Undoubtedly, a nationwide Scheme - new to both the market and consumer - presented significant challenges, especially in the initial phase.

However, CEMalta is confident in its ability to adapt to such challenges and leverage its collective expertise and collaborations with stakeholders to drive forward-thinking strategies. Looking ahead, the goal of the Agency is to ensure the Scheme continues to operate in an efficient and effective manner, within the legal framework of S.L 549.134. CEMalta commits to continue honouring the Regulations governing the Scheme, to continue perpetuating stronger communication internally and externally, and to streamline regulatory processes. This will undeniably allow the Agency to readily handle potential challenges whilst ensuring increased compliance by the industry within the relevant legal framework.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude towards the dedication showcased by the team at CEMalta, who work tirelessly to stay ahead of challenges. Their commitment, professionalism, and expertise in fulfilling our regulatory responsibilities are unwavering. As an Agency, we remain steadfast in our pursuit of robust frameworks that inspire confidence and protect both businesses and consumer rights. Furthermore, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our stakeholders, including the MEER under which we operate, industry players, government entities, and the public, for their invaluable support, engagement, and constructive feedback. Your contributions have played a key role in determining our regulatory policies and actions.





Background

The Regulator

CEMalta, the national Regulator of the Beverage Container Refund Scheme, is responsible for the monitoring and enforcement of the Scheme in-line with S.L 549.134. As the national Authority, CEMalta undertakes to ensure that the legal requirements pertaining to the Licensed Operator, BCRS Malta Ltd, and to the relevant economic operators, are adhered to.

In exercising its functions as Regulator, CEMalta effectively monitors the Scheme, which includes the in-depth analysis and scrutiny of data, continuous liaison with relevant stakeholders, and the drafting of relevant reports. CEMalta operates via a set of standard operating procedures to ensure streamlining of work and to achieve the desired results. The philosophy behind the course of actions and the overall endeavors of CEMalta are inspired by a set of core values, including good governance, accountability, and transparency, which lie at the heart of the public sector.

CEMalta has established a robust open communication channel with stakeholders, with the aim of continuously improving the user-experience of the Scheme, offering guidance and advice to economic operators on respective legal requirements, and reiterating best practices.



The Licensed Operator

BCRS Malta Ltd has been instrumental in contributing towards the Government’s commitment to change, as per Malta’s policy for managing waste hailing from single-use beverage containers. The implementation of the Scheme is in-line with Malta’s commitment as a EU member state in adopting measures inspired by the circular economy.

Operating under S.L 549.134, BCRS Malta Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation licensed by the Government and mandated by collective extended producer responsibility. The Regulations in question set forth the ambitious Collection and Recycling targets for BCRS Malta Ltd - delineated in Figure 01 - and set the foundation for its responsibilities. By 2026, these targets, which increase progressively, seek to collect 90% of single-use beverage containers.

BCRS Malta Ltd has made infrastructural investments for the effective implementation of the Scheme. This includes the creation of Malta’s first beverage container sorting factory and clearing centre, both of which are privately funded. Additionally, as evidenced across Malta and Gozo, BCRS Malta Ltd has set up a network of highly developed reverse vending machines (RVMs), which vary in size and functionalities to cater for different requirements, and to improve the overall user experience.

Reference Year	Collection Target	Recycling Target
2022	70%	65%
2023	70%	65%
2024	80%	75%
2025	85%	80%
2026 and for every calendar year thereafter	90%	85%

Fig. 01 - Licensed Operator Collection and Recycling Targets



Deposit Return Systems in the EU

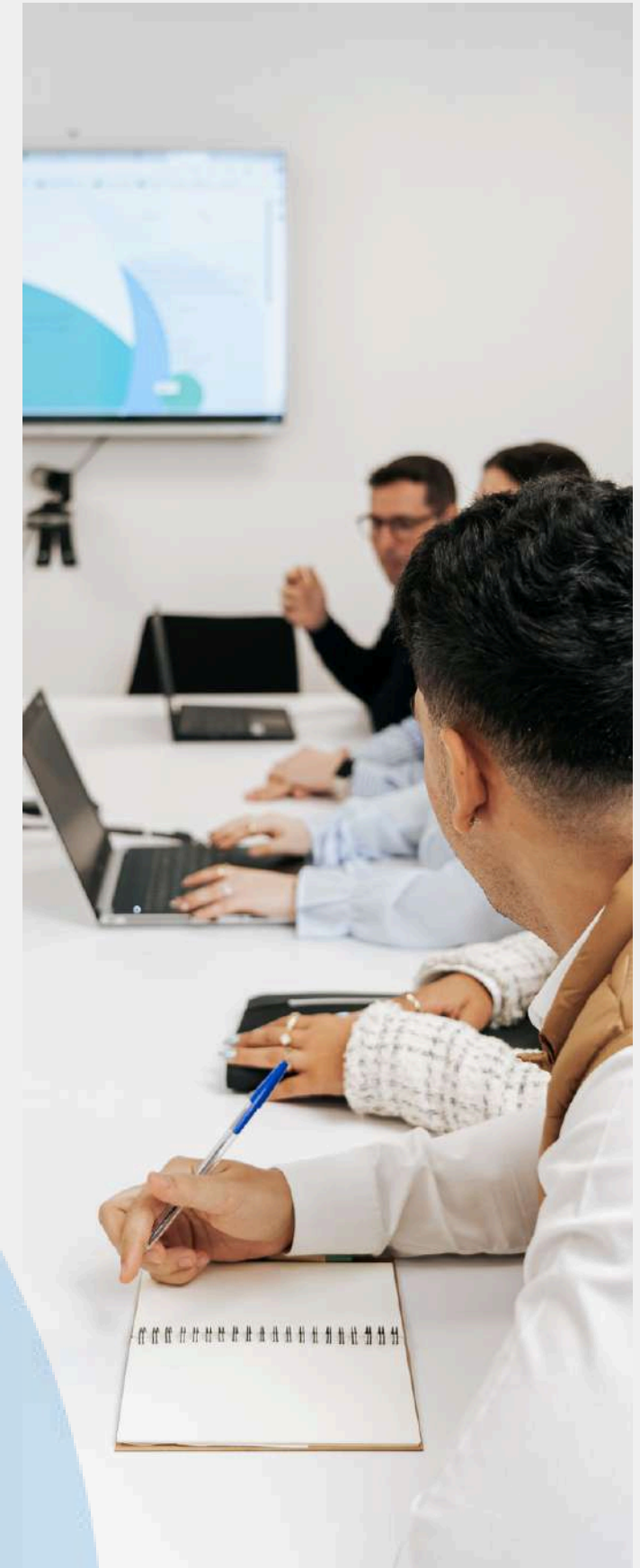
As a member state of the EU, Malta is honored with the successful implementation of the Beverage Container Refund Scheme, which preempts certain European requirements envisaged to come into force.

Emphasising mandatory deposit and return systems, the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing directive 94/62/EC, underscores the significance of such systems for single-use plastic beverage bottles and metal beverage containers. Member States are urged to establish these systems, with a targeted separate Collection rate of at least 90% per year by weight for such packaging by January 1st, 2029.



Advisory Board

In accordance with Section 8 of the Licence Agreement, the Advisory Board is comprised of six (6) members, with three (3) representing the Agency and three (3) representing the Licensed Operator. The Board holds meetings at least once a month to address technical issues pertaining to the Scheme.



A man in a light-colored jacket is holding four bottles of water and a beer, all with blue sleeves, against a green background. The text "Regulation 36 - Report by the Agency" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**Regulation 36 -
Report by the
Agency**

Scheme Registration

Regulation 36 (a) of S.L. 549.134 requires that the Agency reports the number of economic operators participating in the Scheme.

During the year under review, CEMalta actively monitored and supported economic operators who are legally required to participate in the Scheme in-line with Regulation 13 (1), S.L 549.134, which stipulates 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 by providing the Licensed Operator with all the details that it may require for the purposes of the operation of the Scheme... ommis...”

Under this regulatory framework, Producers, Distributors, Retailers, and Catering Undertakings that make available on the market single-use beverage containers in scope of the Scheme are required to register with the Licensed Operator, and adhere to the relevant Regulations thereof.

Economic operators are subject to different legal requirements based on the individual category of registration, which differ for Producers, Distributors, Retailers, and Catering Undertakings. CEMalta ensures that the different functions of economic operators are given due consideration in its regulatory approaches.

During 2023, CEMalta maintained active cooperation with BCRS Malta Ltd to ascertain smooth integration of economic operators within the Scheme, and to ensure industry adherence to the Regulations.

Figure 02 shows the number of registered Scheme participants reported for 2023, categorised as per their respective economic activities. The encouraging statistics shown in Figure 02 bear witness to the continued cooperation and shared dedication to sustainability within Malta's beverage industry. CEMalta and BCRS Malta Ltd have demonstrated a joint commitment towards extended producer responsibility by skillfully navigating various hurdles, and promoting a shift in industry culture towards responsible waste management methods.

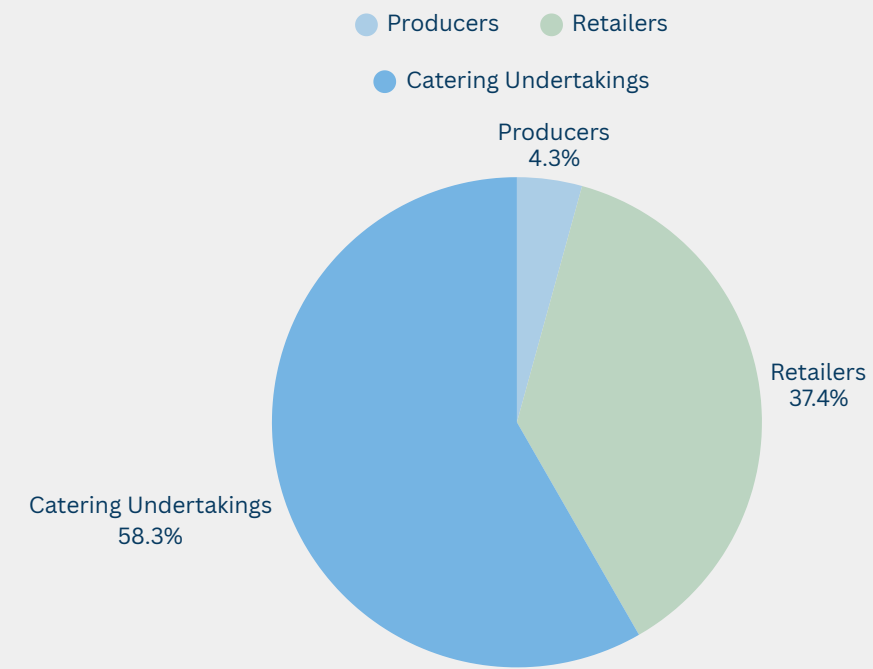


Fig. 02 - Participants Registered per Category as at 31/12/2023

It is noteworthy that Regulation 13 of S.L 549.134 mandates the registration of beverage containers by typology. Registration is required in-line with the pertinent product details stipulated in the First and Second Schedules of the Regulations.

The RVMs, which identify and accept containers in exchange for vouchers depend on this registration to operate. During 2023, the successful registration of 9344 beverage containers was reported. This data is presented in Figure 03, categorised by material

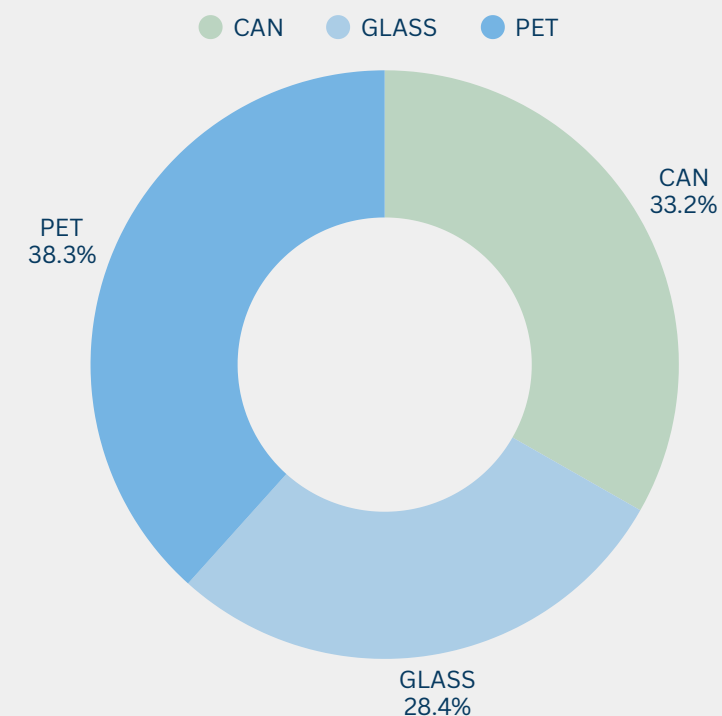


Fig. 03 - Registered Beverage Containers by Material as at 31/12/2023

Category	QTY of Participants
Producers	204
Retailers	1780
Catering Undertakings	2774
Total	4758

Category	QTY of Beverage Containers
CAN	3106
GLASS	2655
PET	3583
Total	9344

Placement on the Market, Collection, and Recycling

In compliance with Regulation 14 of S.L 549.134, Producers submit reports to the Licensed Operator detailing the respective quantities of registered single-use containers placed on the market per typology. As per Regulation 12 of the same Legislation, BCRS Malta Ltd is responsible for collating and presenting reports on a quarterly basis.

This reporting includes the placement against the quantity collected and recycled of single-use beverage containers, in aggregate by weight. The compilation of these quarterly reports makes up the total quantities placed on the market, collected, and recycled, for the relevant calendar year. The total figures reported by BCRS Malta Ltd for year 2023 are summarised in Figure 04 below:

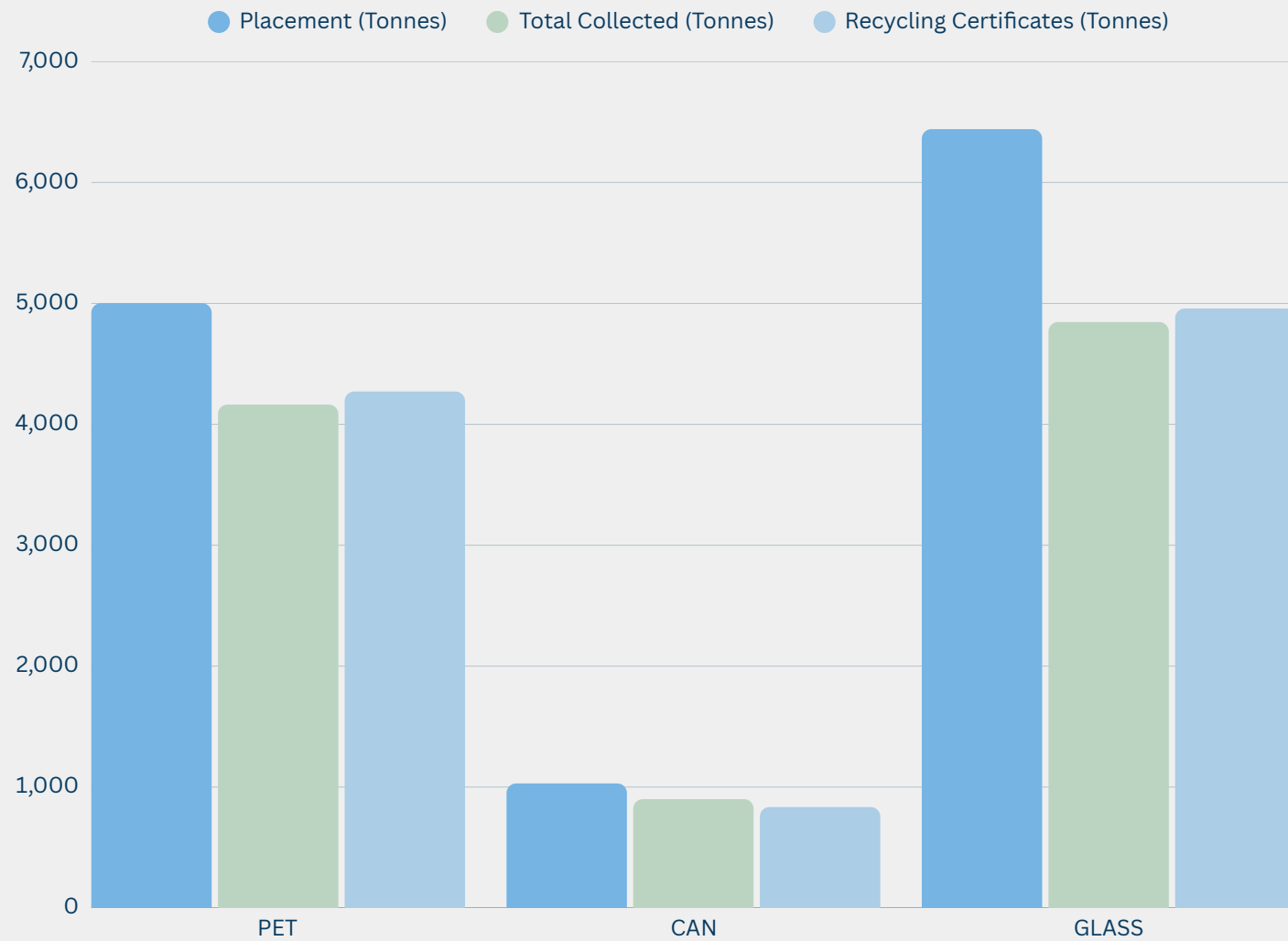


Fig. 04 - Placement against Collection and Recycling in Terms of Weight as at 31/12/2023

The discrepancy between the Collection and Recycling rates obtained accounts for quantity of collected beverage containers shipped for recycling from the previous periods, which may occasionally spill into the Reference Year.

Material	Placement	Collected
PET	168,695,663	136,835,979
CAN	72,358,942	58,167,358
GLASS	25,823,494	19,390,662
Total	266,878,099	214,393,999

Fig. 05 - In Terms of Quantity by Material as at 31/12/2023

Material	Placement (Tonnes)	Collected (Tonnes)	Recycled (Tonnes)
PET	5001.69	4163.31	4271.27
CAN	1029.75	899.83	834.81
GLASS	6441.18	4845.93	4957.64
Total	12,473.00	9909.07	10,063.72

Fig. 06 - In Terms of Weight by Material as at 31/12/2023

Material	Collection vs Placement (Tonnes)	Placement vs Recycled (Tonnes)
PET	83%	85%
CAN	87%	81%
GLASS	75%	77%
Total	80%	81%

Fig. 07 - Percentage Rates by Material as at 31/12/2023



The Collection rate for the year 2023 exceeded the ambitious target stipulated in the Regulations, which stands at seventy per cent (70%) in terms of the weight of single-use containers registered. BCRS Malta Ltd successfully reported a Collection rate of 80% for year 2023.

Acknowledging the successful achievement of the targets, one must not stop there. It is crucial to look forward to improved Collection and Recycling rates for the years ahead. Year 2022 was characterized by several challenges brought by the introduction of such a Scheme on the national market, including lack of awareness, misconceptions about the Scheme among stakeholders and the public, and a sense of reluctance. During 2023, CEMalta worked incessantly to overcome these challenges.

Looking back at 2023, CEMalta perceives this year as a continuum of growth and progress, as can be observed in the advancements made within the Scheme. In its role as the Scheme Regulator, CEMalta, in collaboration with the Licensed Operator, BCRS Malta Ltd, considers the obstacles faced in 2023 as part of a learning curve. Areas of improvement have been identified, and efforts will be progressively focused on enhancing the operational aspect of the Scheme, benefiting both consumers and the industry. The successful achievement of the targets for 2023 reflect the resilience and adaptability of the Scheme in overcoming initial challenges.



The Infrastructure

The Scheme is powered by the latest technologies to facilitate and maximise the Collection and Recycling targets stipulated in S.L 549.134.

Consumers are incentivised to return their beverage containers to one of the many RVMs installed across Malta and Gozo. In turn, the RVMs are equipped with the latest technology to accurately scan each beverage container, to ensure that it is registered with the Scheme, and generate a redeemable voucher to consumers.

The Public RVM Hubs are installed across public spaces and issue vouchers that can be redeemed at any outlet that sells beverages in scope of the Scheme, whereas the Retail RVMs 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. During 2023 BCRS Malta Ltd invested in Public Jumbo RVM Depots, hereinafter referred to as Quantum. The Quantum Machines accept multiple plastic (PET) beverage containers at one go, storing up to 9,000 plastic beverage containers before they are full. The aim of these machines is to make the consumer experience evermore practical and efficient.

Internet of Things 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.

A digital 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. Beverage containers collected via the RVMs are then sent to BCRS Ltd's Clearing Site in Hal-Far for further processing, and thereof exported accordingly.

Figure 08 lists the number and types of RVMs as at the end of year 2023.

Category	QTY
RETAIL	154
HOTELS	18
PUBLIC HUBS	172
Total	344

Fig. 08 - QTY of RVMs per Category as at 31/12/2023



It is worth mentioning that during 2023, a few complaints about noise levels emanating from the Public RVM Hubs installed in residential areas were lodged with the Agency. In view of this, discussions with the Licensed Operator and other relevant Government entities ensued to reach an agreement that meets the requirements of all parties involved. Consequently, it was decided that the operating hours of certain Public RVM Hubs installed in residential areas are adjusted to ensure a more efficient and effective service for the community, whilst ensuring that the collection of single-use beverage bottles and cans made of plastic, metal, and glass is not hindered.

During 2023, the Licensed Operator formalised an agreement with Silver T, a Government Agency, to supply a fleet of vehicles aimed at assisting elderly individuals. This initiative facilitates transportation for seniors to depots where they can utilise RVMs. The provision of these vehicles ensures that older adults have convenient and reliable means to access RVM facilities, thereby promoting greater participation in recycling efforts and enhancing the overall sustainability of the community. Through this collaboration, both parties demonstrate their commitment to supporting the ageing population and encouraging environmentally friendly practices.

In addition to this, during 2023 CEMalta initiated discussions with the Licensed Operator, representatives from the visually impaired community, and other stakeholders, with the aim of enhancing the accessibility of the RVMs to this specific societal group.

Figure 09 below delineates the aggregate quantity of beverage containers collected by the RVMs as at end of year 2023.

Collection by RVMs (tonnes)
7,688.46

Fig. 09 - Collection by RVMs in Terms of Weight as at 31/12/2023



Public RVM Hubs, Including Quantum			
Locality	Location / Street Name	RVM Type	QTY
Birzebbuga	Misrah is-Summit	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Cospicua	Under Bastions	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Gharghur	Triq Giovanni Gafa	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Gzira	Sliema Road	Optima + Ultra Glass + Ultra Glass	3
Luxol Depot	Park & Ride	Quantum + Optima + Ultra Can + Ultra PET + Ultra Glass + Ultra Glass	6
Marsascala	Bajja ta San Tumas	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Qormi 1	Triq L-Imdina	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Qormi 2	Triq il-Wied	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Rabat	Triq Buzugrilla	Optima + Ultra Glass	4
San Gwann	Triq il-Qasab	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Siggiewi	Near Football Ground	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Swatar	Triq is-Swatar	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Zabbar	Triq Villa Abbate	Optima + Ultra Glass + Ultra Glass	3
Dingli	Near Football Ground	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Kalkara	Near Local Council Office	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Mgarr	Triq il-Ganfra	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Msida	Triq L-Irmigg	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Pieta	Triq Joe Gasan	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
St Venera	Canon Road	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Floriana	Near Planning Authority	Optima + Optima + Ultra Glass + Ultra Glass + Ultra Glass + Ultra Glass	6
Gudja	Triq L-Ghejellel	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Mellieha Depot	Near Welbees in Parking	Quantum + Optima + Ultra Glass + Ultra Can	4
Paola	Behind Local Council Building	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Luqa	Hal-Farrug Family Park Entrance	Optima+ Ultra Glass	2

Marsaxlokk	Triq tat-Trunciera Parking Area	Optima + Ultra Glass + Ultra Glass	3
Vittoriosa	Entrance to Marina	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Xemxija	Near Kiosk - Xatt il-Pwales	Optima + Ultra PET + Ultra Glass + Ultra Glass	4
Zurrieq	Behind Gibjun Garden	Optima + Ultra Glass + Ultra Glass	3
Tarxien	Near School - Pjazza Agatha Barbara	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Fgura	Triq Mahatma Gandhi	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Marfa	Parking Area Near Hotel Labranda	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Attard	Triq L-Ghenba	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Zejtun	Triq Toni Zahra	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Mqabba	Triq Hal-Kirkop (Opposite Cemetery)	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Pembroke	Opposite Maypole	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Ta Xbiex	Yacht Marina (Behind Mamma Mia)	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Sliema (Tower Road)	Promenade - Taormina Beach Area	Optima + Ultra PET + Ultra PET + Ultra Glass	4
Sliema (Qui Si Sana)	Promenade Qui Si Sana Near Bring in Site	Optima + Ultra PET + Ultra PET + Ultra Glass	4
Marsascula	Near Bring in Site - Under Church	Optima + Ultra Glass + Ultra Glass	3
Birkirkara (Ta'Paris)	Triq Grech Delicata	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Haz-Zebbug	In Front of Local Council	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Naxxar	Triq il-Kappella ta' Xaghra	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Birkirkara (Centre)	Outside Birkirkara Civic Centre	Optima + Ultra PET + Ultra Glass	3
Hal-Far 1 & 2	BCRS Clearing Centre	Optima + Optima + Ultra Glass + Ultra Glass	4
Hal-Far Quantum	BCRS Clearing Centre	Quantum+ Optima + Ultra Glass	3
St Paul's Bay	Xatt, Near Marco Tanti Gelateria	Optima + Ultra PET + Ultra Glass + Ultra Glass	4

St Paul's Bay	Mosta Road	Optima + Ultra PET + Ultra Glass + Ultra Glass	4
Mtarfa	Triq L-Imtarfa	Flex-Tri	1
Marsa	Triq is-Salib tal-Marsa	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Santa Lucija	In Front of Police Station	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Valletta	Opposite War Museum	Optima + Ultra Glass + Ultra Glass	3
Marsa Depot	Marsa Industrial Park	Quantum + Optima + Ultra Glass + Ultra Glass + Ultra Can	5
Bulebel Depot	Bulebel Industrial Park	Quantum + Ultra Glass + Ultra Glass + Ultra Can	4
San Gwann Depot	San Gwann Industrial Park	Quantum + Optima + Ultra Glass + Ultra Can	4
Ta' Qali Depot	Ta' Qali	Quantum + Optima + Ultra Glass + Ultra Glass + Ultra PET + Ultra Can	6
Senglea	Behind Public School	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Kirkop Depot	Sports Centre	Quantum + Ultra Glass + Ultra PET + Ultra Can	4
University of Malta	Msida	Flex-Tri	1
Kalkara	Esplora	Flex-Tri	1
Msida	Junior College	Flex-Tri	1
Marsalforn	Car Park Near Public Convenience	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Gharb	Near Public School	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Xewkija	Xewkija Industrial Estate	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Festivals	BCRS Clearing Centre	Flex-Tri	4
Educational	BCRS Clearing Centre	Flex-Tri	1
Total			172

Fig. 10 - Public Hubs RVMs as at 31/12/2023

Retail RVMs			
Outlet Name	Locality	RVM Type	QTY
Joseph Sultana	Qormi	Optima	2
		Ultra Glass	
Modern Store	Qormi	Flex-Tri	1
Lidl Qormi	Qormi	Optima	5
		Ultra Glass	
		Ultra PET	
		Ultra PET	
Pavi Supermarket	Qormi	Optima	4
		Ultra Glass	
		Ultra PET	
Spar - Daniel's Hamrun	Hamrun	Flex-Tri	1
Alfsons	Hamrun	Optima	2
		Ultra Glass	
Arkadia Supermarket	St Julians	Optima	2
		Ultra Glass	
Welbee's Supermarket - P/ Gardens	St Julians	Optima	2
		Ultra Glass	
Corner Food Store	Swieqi	Optima	2
		Ultra Glass	
Healthy Lifestyle	Swieqi	Flex-Tri	1
Orient	Gzira	Flex-Tri	1
Welbee's Supermarket	Sliema	Optima	2
		Ultra Glass	
Lidl Sliema	Sliema	Optima	3
		Ultra Glass	
		Ultra PET	
Welbee's Supermarket - Spinola	St Julians	Optima	2
		Ultra Glass	
Lidl San Gwann	San Gwann	Optima	4
		Ultra Glass	
		Ultra PET	
		Ultra PET	
Savemart	San Gwann	Flex-Tri	1
Ta'Karla	Rabat	Optima	2
		Ultra Glass	
G & G Self Service	Attard	Flex-Tri	1

Smart Supermarket	Birkirkara	Optima	5
		Ultra Glass	
		Ultra PET	
		Ultra PET	
Lidl Mosta	Mosta	Optima	5
		Ultra Glass	
		Ultra PET	
		Ultra PET	
		Ultra PET	
Pama Supermarket	Mosta	Optima	5
		Ultra Glass	
		Ultra PET	
		Ultra PET	
Welbee's Supermarket	Naxxar	Optima	2
		Ultra Glass	
Lidl Luqa	Luqa	Optima	5
		Ultra Glass	
		Ultra PET	
		Ultra PET	
Lidl Safi	Safi	Optima	5
		Ultra Glass	
		Ultra PET	
		Ultra PET	
Lidl Zejtun	Zejtun	Optima	5
		Ultra Glass	
		Ultra PET	
		Ultra PET	
Antonio Piscopo W & S	Paola	Optima	3
		Ultra Glass	
		Ultra PET	
Welbee's Supermarket	Santa Venera	Optima	3
		Ultra Glass	
Piscopo Cash & Carry	St Paul's Bay	Optima	3
		Ultra Glass	
		Ultra PET	
Chain Supermarket	Tarxien	Optima	2
		Ultra Glass	

Greens Supermarket Limited	St Andrews	Optima Ultra Glass	2
Welbee's Supermarket	Mellieha	Optima Ultra Glass	2
Ta' Kawwar Cash & Carry	Ghaxaq	Optima Ultra Glass	2
Bottles & Bottles	Mellieha	Optima Ultra Glass	2
Dirjanu	Victoria	Optima Ultra Glass	2
Farsons Direct	Mriehel	Optima Ultra Glass	2
Favell Wines and Spirits	Qormi	Optima Ultra Glass	2
Food Box	Hamrun	Optima Ultra Glass	2
G&R Warehouse	Victoria	Optima Ultra Glass	2
J Micallef	Ghaxaq	Optima Ultra Glass	2
Danish Village Mini Market	Mellieha	Flex-Tri	1
Greens Supermarket - Gozo	Victoria	Flex-Tri	1
Dave's - Zebbug	Zebbug	Flex-Tri	1
Anna's Confectionery	Qawra	Flex-Tri	1
Euro Saver	St Pauls's Bay	Flex-Tri	1
Spar Marsaxlokk	Marsaxlokk	Flex-Tri	1
Wisto Company Ltd	Victoria	Flex-Tri	1
Lidl Gozo	Victoria	Optima Ultra Glass Ultra PET Ultra PET	5
Welbee's Supermarket	Qawra	Optima Ultra Glass	2
Zimmek (Joseph Camilleri)	Nadur	Optima Ultra Glass	2
C. Vella & Sons	Mellieha	Flex-Tri	1
Lidl St Venera	St Venera	Optima Ultra Glass Ultra PET	5

Chain Supermarket	Fgura	Optima Ultra Glass	2
Lighthouse Supermarket	Marsalforn	Optima Ultra Glass	2
Gigi's	Valletta	Flex-Tri	1
Spar Bugibba	Bugibba	Flex-Tri	1
X - Zone Swatar	Birkirkara	Flex-Tri	1
Abraham's Vini e Capricci	Xewkija	Flex-Tri	1
Scotts	Zabbar	Optima Ultra Glass	2
Giormina	St Paul's Bay	Optima Ultra Glass	2
Toni's Wines & Spirits	Marsaskala	Optima Ultra Glass	2
Greens Quad	Mriehel	Optima Ultra Glass Optima Ultra PET	4
Welbee's Supermarket	Uom Campus Hub	Optima Ultra Glass	2
Spar	The Point, Tigne	Optima Ultra Glass	2
Iceland	Qawra	Flex-Tri	1
Chain Supermarket	Zabbar	Flex-Tri	1
Lidl Burmarrad	Burmarrad	Optima Ultra Glass Optima Ultra Glass	4
Ta' Dirjanu	Ghajnsielem	Optima Ultra Glass	2
Ta' Ganza	Zabbar	Flex-Tri	1
Total			154

Fig. 11 - Retail RVMs as at 31/12/2023

Hotel RVMs			
Locality	Hotel Name	RVM Type	QTY
Paceville	Intercontinental Hotel	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Paceville	Hilton Malta	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Paceville	Westin Dragonara	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Mellieha	DB Seabank	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Qawra	DB San Antonio	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Floriana	Excelsior	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Sliema	The Victoria Hotel	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Paceville	Corinthia San Gorg	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Qawra	Seashells Resort	Optima + Ultra Glass	2
Total			18

Fig. 12 - Hotel RVMs as at 31/12/2023

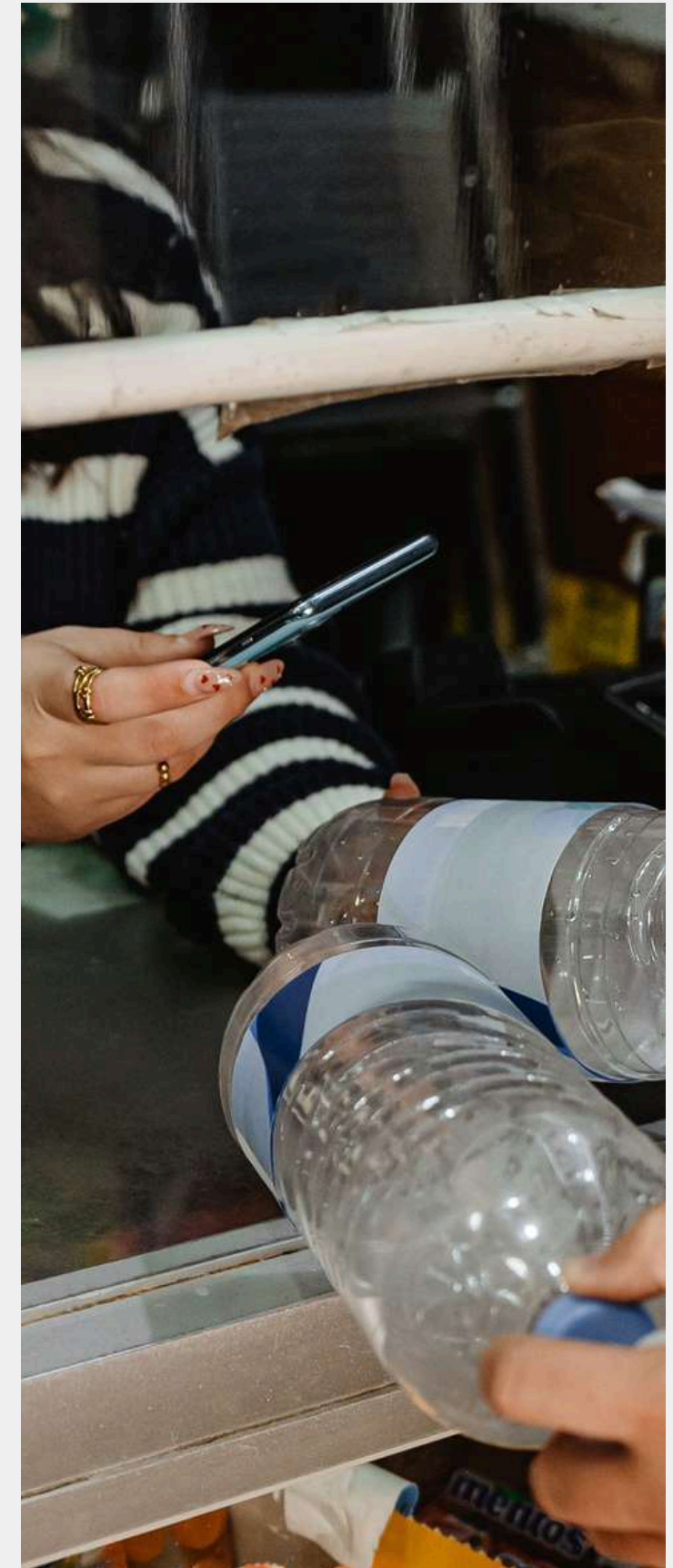
Manual Collection

The regulatory framework, as outlined in Regulation 18 (1) of S.L 549.134, mandates retail establishments to institute a system for the return of single-use containers. Particularly, in the absence of a RVM, as per sub-regulation (1) of Regulation 16, Retailers are obliged to accept manual returns. This process involves the return of single-use containers without automated systems. Further legal requirements pertaining to the manual collection process are delineated in the Regulations.

The data captured in Figure 13 below, detailing the total beverage containers in terms of weight collected via the manual collection, is testimony to a consolidated set of efforts made by BCRS Malta Ltd as well as relevant economic operators during 2023 vis-à-vis the manual collection.

Manual Collection (Tonnes)	
TOTAL	2,220.64

Fig. 13 - Manual Collection in Terms of Weight as at 31/12/2023



Exemptions

In congruence with Part IV of S.L 549.134, Producers who have in place a refillable system for the collection and reuse of beverage containers falling within scope of the Scheme are eligible to seek exemption. Producers of refillable beverage containers are required to register their specific products per typology with the Agency to secure exemption from the Scheme. It is crucial to note that the barcodes of refillable beverage containers are subsequently forwarded to BCRS Malta Ltd to ensure proper recognition by the RVMs.

This recognition prompts the machines to notify consumers about the refillable nature of these products in case of erroneous disposal.

The Regulations establish specific Collection targets for Producers of refillable beverage containers. These targets, delineated in Figure 14, reflect a continued dedication to environmental responsibility.

Reference Year	Collection Target
2022	70%
2023	70%
2024	80%
2025	85%
2026 and for every calendar year thereafter	90%

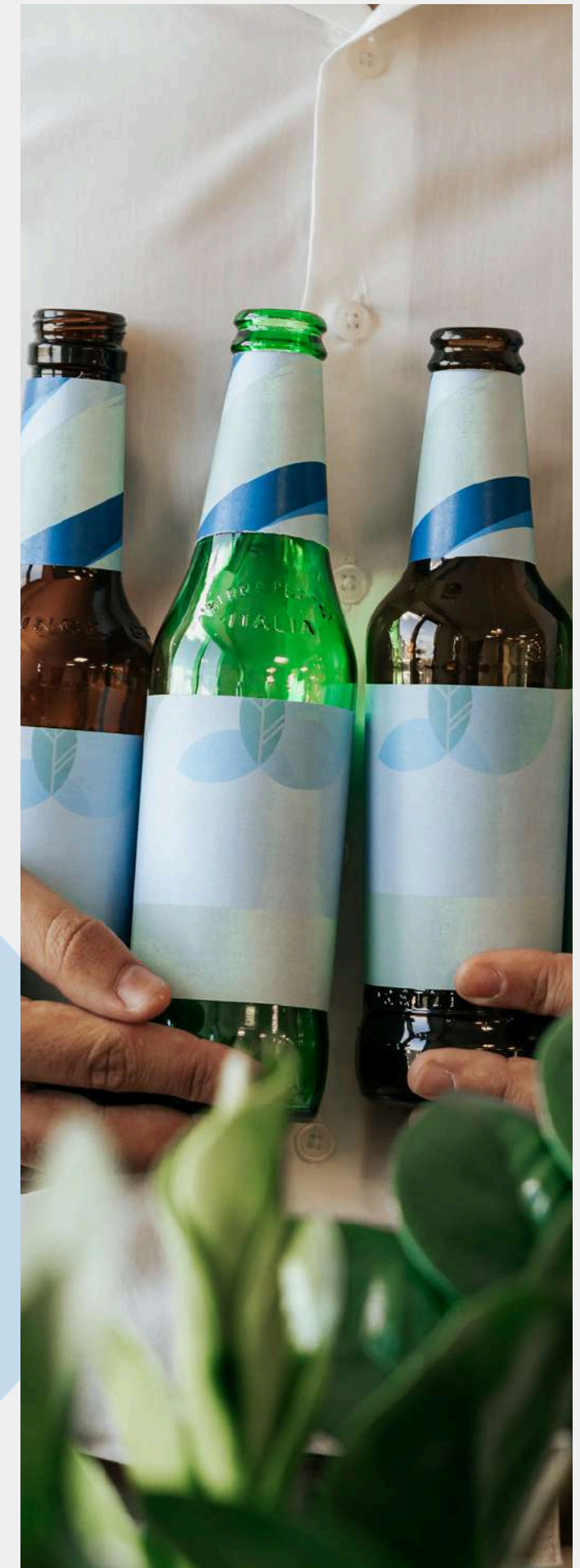
Fig. 14 - Registered Producers of Refillables Collection Targets in Terms of Weight



In the ongoing pursuit of advancing circular economy principles, the year 2023 has witnessed significant growth in the registration of Producers and respective products packaged in refillable containers. Corroborating this, during 2023 there was a notable addition of two (2) new registered Producers. Moreover, an increase of sixteen (16) new products were registered, complementing the twenty-five (25) products registered in 2022.

The comprehensive list in Figure 16 outlines the registered refillable beverage containers, by typology, as at end 2023. These beverage products are packaged in refillable containers, and upon consumption, are returned to the respective Producer for efficient reuse, aligning with the core principals of circular economy ideology.

The addition of newly registered Producers and products attests to a collective commitment to reduce waste and promote a more sustainable and circular approach to the management of beverage containers.



Product Description	Barcode	Deposit Amount (€)
7 UP 25cl	5352201094285	€0.10
Britvic Bitter Lemon 25cl	5352201094247	€0.10
Britvic Ginger Ale 25cl	5352201094254	€0.10
Britvic Soda Water 25cl	5352201094261	€0.10
Britvic Tonic Water 25cl	5352201094278	€0.10
Budweiser 25cl	5352201001009	€0.10
Cisk O.O 25cl	5352201092212	€0.10
Cisk Chill Berry 25cl	5352201091437	€0.10
Cisk Chill Lemon 25cl	5352201091406	€0.10
Cisk Chill Ginger Lime 25cl	5352201091468	€0.10
Cisk Excel 25cl	5352201090102	€0.10
Cisk Lager 25cl	5352201090508	€0.10
Cisk Lager 50cl	5352201000408	€0.17
Fontana 0.25L (Sparkling)	5352206176238	€0.13
Fontana 0.25L (Still)	5352206176221	€0.13
Fontana 0.75L (Sparkling)	5352206176214	€0.30
Fontana 0.75L (Still)	5352206176207	€0.30
Hopleaf 25cl	5352201000217	€0.10
Hopleaf 50cl	5352201000385	€0.17
Lacto 25cl	5352201000231	€0.10
Mirinda 25cl	5352201093615	€0.10
Pepsi 25cl	5252201094308	€0.10
Pepsi Max 25cl	5352201003997	€0.10
Shandy 25cl	5352201001221	€0.10
Skol 50cl	5352201000415	€0.17
Levico 25cl (Still)	8020033000220	€0.10
Levico 25cl (Sparkling)	8020033000213	€0.10
Levico 50cl (Still)	8020033000138	€0.10
Levico 50cl (Still)	8020033000138	€0.10
Levico 50cl (Sparkling)	8020033000121	€0.10
Levico 1L (Still)	8020033000060	€0.10
Levico 1L (Sparkling)	8020033000077	€0.10
Laurentana 1L (Still)	8004192103107	€0.10

Laurentana 1L (Sparkling)	8004192103305	€0.10
Café Cuba Still 0.75L	5352206176405	€0.30
Café Cuba Sparkling 0.75L	5352206176412	€0.30
O Water Still 0.75L	5352206176979	€0.30
O Water Sparkling 0.75L	5352206176986	€0.30
O Water Still 0.25L	5352206186992	€0.30
Water Sparkling 0.25L	5352206187005	€0.30
Vecchia Napoli Still 0.75L	5352206176429	€0.30
Vecchia Napoli Sparkling 0.75L	5352206176436	€0.30

Fig. 15 - Registered Refillable Beverage Containers as at 31/12/2023

In adherence to S.L 549.134, specifically Regulation 22, Producers responsible for placing refillable containers on the market are required to provide the Agency with quarterly data reports. These reports encompass details pertaining to the aggregate volume of refillable containers placed on the market and collected, categorised by the typology of the container. Any additional information deemed necessary by the Agency is also included in these submissions.

Figure 16 delineates the total collated number of refillable beverage containers placed on the market and collected for year 2023.

Year	Placement (KGS)	Collection (KGS)	Collection Rate (%)	Refillable Bottles Deposit Balance (€)
2023	3,727,460.00	3,582,680.75	96.12	122,059.30

Fig. 16 - Refillable Beverage Containers Placement and Collection, and Refillable Bottles Deposit Balance as at 31/12/2023

Notably, Figure 16 above demonstrates that registered Producers of refillable beverage containers exceeded the mandated Collection target of 70%, surpassing it by an impressive 25 percentage points.

These figures underscore the effectiveness and high performance of the refillable systems currently implemented by these Producers.

Complaints

In accordance with Regulation 36 of S.L 549.134, CEMalta is herewith reporting the number of complaints received during 2023. During the year under review CEMalta has diligently undertaken the task of investigating, addressing, and following up on queries and complaints related to the Scheme.

It is noteworthy that, as an ISO9001:2015 certified entity, CEMalta is committed to recording such complaints for the purposes of transparency, accuracy, and accountability. The core values of responsiveness and efficiency are integral to the Agency's operations. In-line with this commitment, the Agency aims to acknowledge the receipt of complaints within 48 hours and provide timely feedback, ensuring stakeholders' satisfaction with the services offered.

During the year 2023, CEMalta continued its efforts to exercise regulatory powers as mandated. Figure 18 details the official complaints received and lodged, along with the summarised subject pertaining to such complaints. CEMalta hereby certifies that all reported cases were investigated, and appropriate actions were taken effectively.

CEMalta conducted spot-checks, mystery shopping activities, and inspections with the objective of reiterating that adherence to the Law is imperative. Where possible, CEMalta assisted and supported economic operators to align themselves with the S.L in question as appropriate.

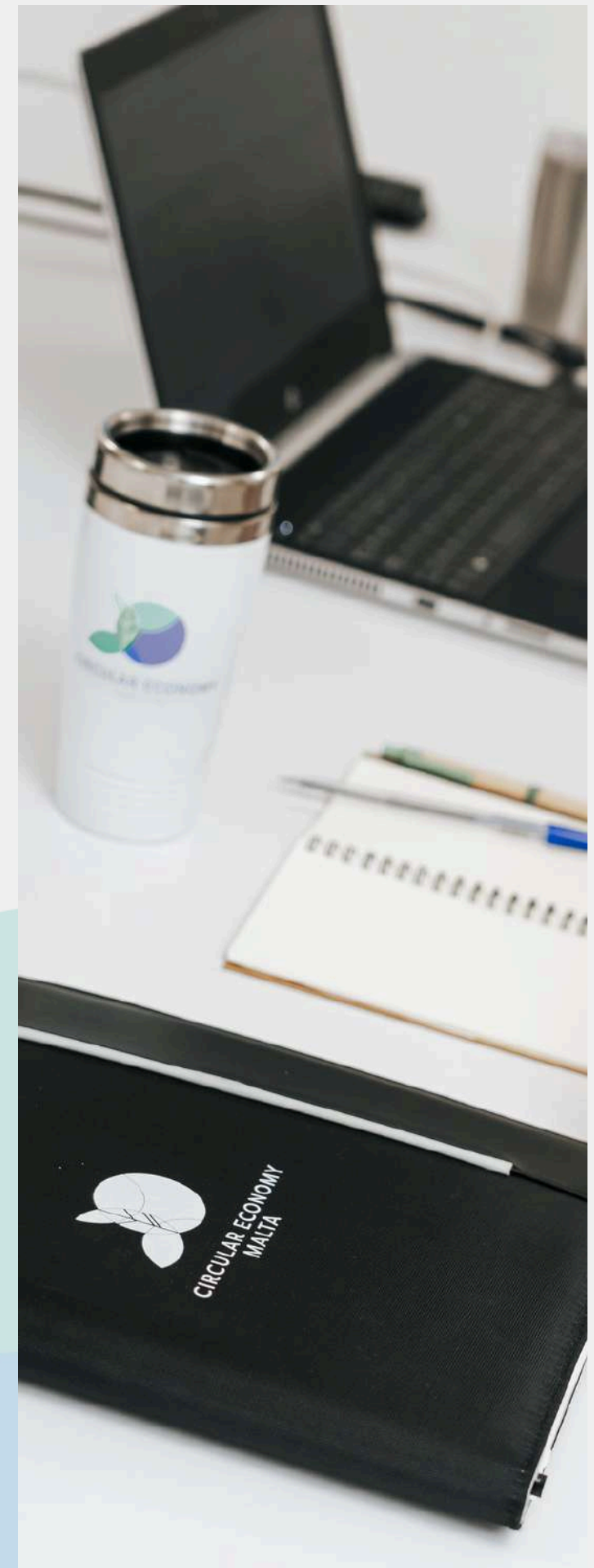
It is worth noting that whenever queries and complaints fell under the remit of the Licensed Operator, CEMalta acted as a catalyst between complainants and BCRS Malta Ltd and bridged the gap to facilitate communication in an efficient and effective manner.



Nature of Complaint	QTY
Products Not Registered with the Scheme	50
Erroneous Charging of Deposit by Catering Undertakings for Dine-In	30
Erroneous Charging of Deposit on Products	22
Redemption of Vouchers by Retailers	17
Registration of Economic Operators	15
Issues Related to RVMs	18
Operational Issues with BCRS Malta Ltd	11
Manual Collection by Retailers	7
*Other	10
Total Queries and Complaints	180

Fig. 17 - Queries and Complaints by Category as at 31/12/2023

*Queries and complaints falling under the category 'Other' mostly relate to complaints whose nature does not fall within the remit of the Agency, but other government entities.



Investigations & Breaches

The compliance function within the Agency ensures effective regulatory compliance pertaining to the Scheme, within the relevant legislative framework and other regulatory instruments.

Compliance verifications were undertaken to ensure that both the Licensed Operator of the Scheme, as well as economic operators abide by S.L 549.134. Being the first full year of the Scheme in operation, 2023 was a year characterised by pre-emptive and proactive investigative tasks undertaken by the Agency, with the objective of addressing and mitigating situations which may result in adverse effects on the Scheme.

Such investigative tasks include but are not limited to, gathering of data from third party entities, sourcing economic operators through data obtained, analysis of data reports, and carrying out random spot-checks, mystery shopping activities, and inspections.

Figure 18 below summarises the investigative actions undertaken by the Agency during 2023

Meetings with Economic Operators	Mystery Shopping Exercises	Inspections
23	72	745

Fig. 18 - Investigative Actions undertaken by the Agency as at 31/12/2023



Financial Position of the Scheme and of the Deposit Refund Account of the Licensed Operator

S.L. 549.134 stipulates that BCRS Malta Ltd is legally required to provide the Agency with the financial position of the Scheme and of the deposit refund account, which is being provided in Figure 19 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.

	Deposits for beverage container account - (included in Note 19 to the financial statements)	Collections/ payments traced in the bank account	Outstanding balance as at 31/12/2023	Remarks
	€	€	€	
Beginning Balance	(1,748,763.70)	16,065.40	(1,732,698.30)	With €1,820.70 difference from 2022 audited balance due to five self-invoices which should have been reversed as at 31 December 2022, however, the respective credit notes were issued in January 2023.
Deposits receivable from producers and importers on beverage containers placed on the market	(26,689,249.90)			
Deposits receivable from retailers, distributors, caterers, and HoReCa from stock self-declaration form	(671,338.68)	22,898,191.56	(4,462,397.02)	
Deposits payable on redeemed beverage containers (including both through redeemed vouchers & manual collections)	20,410,842.40	(16,511,891.51)	3,898,950.89	
Unredeemed vouchers and deposit	6,102,555.00	(2,388,061.90)	3,714,493.10	The unredeemed vouchers pertain to expired vouchers not redeemed within 1 year. While the unredeemed deposits pertain to the 100% of 2022 unredeemed deposits and 80% of 2023 unredeemed deposits. Unredeemed deposits are computed as placements minus collections of beverage containers. This is in line with the Company's policy.
Redeemed vouchers forfeited to charity organisations	160,752.60	(147,225.10)	13,527.50	
	(2,435,202.28)	3,867,078.45	1,431,876.17	
Amount as per audited Financial statements	(2,435,283.00)			
Amount as per bank statement (including held for trading investment)		3,867,076.12		
Variance	80.72	2.33		
	Note A	Note B		

Note A

It was noted that the deposits receivable from producers and importers on beverage containers placed on the market, accounted for in the books amounted to €29,396,181.40 instead of €29,396,261.80, a discrepancy of €80.40.

Note B

Pertaining to variance noted in 2022.



Fig. 19 - Agreed Upon Procedures - Operation of the Deposit Refund Account of BCRS Malta Ltd

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