

The Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations (BABLO) is the “Initiator of deposit” for the purpose of initiating the deposit as required by 38 M.R.S. § 3103 (4) for all spirits container sizes. BABLO is responsible for providing or contracting for all transportation and recycling services related to bottle redemption as required by 38 M.R.S. § 3106 (7).

BABLO is solely responsible for the collection of bottle deposit fees and for all costs associated with the spirits business in Maine. BABLO uses its contractor under 28-A M.R.S. §90 to provide, sometimes through a subcontractor bottle redemption services. The collection services must include the pick-up of empty spirits beverage containers at redemption centers. The collection must be managed in such a way and with such frequency to avoid a backlog of containers at the places of pick up.

Maine’s spirits business includes approximately 90 out of state suppliers, manufacturers and importers of spirits as well as 22 in-state distilleries (suppliers) who provide product to be sold to over 600 agency liquor stores and approximately 1600 on-premises establishments. The quantity of plastic bottles containing spirits that flows through the State’s system is comprised of approximately 40% of large format bottles and 90% of small format bottles, equaling about 2500+ SKU’s. This results in a very large number of plastic spirits bottles to account for.

Suppliers are responsible for registering their containers with the DEP and BABLO requires product/container registration with the DEP as part of the process to list products to be sold in the State as required by 28-A § M.R.S. 81 (3), and BABLO works with the DEP to ensure compliance with DEP registration requirements going forward if a supplier fails to renew its registration with DEP.